




CAP A FUND II
MEDIA KIT

תחרות מנודית וחברות ישראליות דומות באתגרים המשתקפים במרחק משוקי היעד בארה"ב ובאסיה, שני השוקים הגדולים בעולם. מכיוון שרוב הסטארטאפים דלים במשאבים בשלבים המוקדמים הם שמחים לקבל סיוע מקרן שמתמחה בגישה לשוק האמריקאי ובעלת רשת קשרים שמאפשרת לחברות לצמוח מהר יותר.



מייסדי החברה. היכרות מעמיקה עם האקו סיסטם

מדוע דווקא בניו יורק?

ניו יורק היא האב טכנולוגי מרכזי בעולם ומקום נחיתה טבעי לחברות ישראליות ואירופאיות. הפרש השעות הנוח יחסית בין השוקים בהם אנחנו פעילים לנוו יורק מאפשר לנו פעילות יעילה עם שאר המשרדים שלנו ברובי העולם.

מה הייתה נקודת המפנה שהביאה לכם משקיעים וחשיפה רבה?

נקודת המפנה הייתה הבשלה של חלק מחברות הפורטפוליו והובלתן לאקזיט. עד כה היו לנו 4 מימושים וגיוסי המשך של חברות בסכום כולל של יותר מ-50 מיליון דולר. האסטרטגיה של הקרן הוכחה וקיבלה משנה תוקף עם ההצלחות הללו. המשקיעים והשותפים שלנו מכירים היום ביכולת שלנו להעמיק בשוקים שאין להם גישות אליהן. לזכות חברות אטרקטיביות עם פוטנציאל כלכלי גדול ולסייע להן לאורך כל שלבי הצמיחה ועד לאקזיט. כיום יש לנו שותפויות עם גופים אסטרטגיים מובילים בשוקים הללו כגון Ericsson Garage ונוספים שנוכל לחשוף בקרוב.

לדעתם מתחילים מהתחלה, מה הייתם עושים אחרת?

את השנים הראשונות בשוקים המתפתחים העברנו תוך הכרות מעמיקה עם האקוסיסטם, ובמאמץ משמעותי ליצור מוניטין. במחשבה לאחור, ניתן היה לשקף פעולה עם גופים גדולים ולקצר את התהליך אך ישנן תירוטות רבים לתהליך העמוק שעברנו והעשיר אותנו בידע ובהבנת הקשיים של היזמים והתעשייה.

מתי הסיימינג הנכון להגיע לעיר?

כמה שיותר מוקדם יותר טוב. ניו יורק היא עיר מאוד מסבירת פנים לסטארטאפים ויש בה קהילה נחרת שכולה לסייע עם ההתאקלמות. הקרבה להון וללקוחות פוטנציאליים היא קריטית לצמיחה של מיזמים ואנחנו כאן כדי לודא של מפגש פיזי את המירב עבור היזמים ויממש את הפוטנציאל הגלום בצוות המייסד.

מאז הקמת הקרן, כמה גייסטם?

19.5 מיליון דולר.

CapA's portfolio company, Zverse, announces partnership with Xometry to deliver 3D Design On-Demand Services to manufacturing customers



Seeking Alpha^α

Xometry and ZVerse Announce Partnership

Wed April 11, 2018 11:29 AM | PR Newswire

GAITHERSBURG, Md. and COLUMBIA, S.C., April 11, 2018 /PRNewswire/ -- Xometry, the largest on-demand manufacturing platform, has partnered with ZVerse, the leading 3D design on-demand platform, to create manufacturable 3D files for customers who need parts designed from scratch, existing CAD files modified or legacy parts reverse engineered.

"A common manufacturing roadblock we see is that a customer needs a part produced, but they may not have a 3D file or their current file is not ready for manufacturing," said Randy Altschuler, co-founder and CEO of Xometry. "Also, many customers need reverse engineering of their legacy parts that have been manufactured for years without a digital file which is required for today's digital manufacturing age. By partnering with ZVerse, we've removed these roadblocks for our customers to get the custom manufactured parts they need. "

ZVerse's 3D Design On-Demand platform bridges the gap from an idea or a 2D image data file to a 3D file optimized for the selected manufacturing process including CNC, injection molding, sheet metal fabrication, 3D printing and more. Machine learning is used to predict the cost to design a part for manufacturing in any material or process which reduces a major friction point to execute design for manufacturing at scale.



United States

... and secures
additional funding
from SCRA!

ZVERSE Receives SC Launch Investment from SCRA

April 17, 2018 03:16 PM Eastern Daylight Time

SUMMERVILLE, S.C.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--SCRA recently finalized an SC Launch, Inc. investment in Columbia-based ZVERSE. The company was accepted into SCRA's entrepreneurial program, SC Launch, in November 2017 as a Client Company. The \$300,000 investment will be used to accelerate the company's growth in 2018.

Investment in Cerenion – Brain monitoring technology

Butterfly Ventures – 1Q2018



CERENION closes a 500,000€ seed investment round in its brain monitoring business

5th of February 2018

Cerenion Oy in collaboration with **Butterfly Ventures** and **Icebreaker.vc** announces the closing of a seed investment round of 500,000€ in its business.

February 5th, 2018 - Oulu, Finland - **Cerenion Oy**, the next-generation brain monitoring company, is proud to announce the completion of a 500,000€ seed investment round in its business. The sum invested by Butterfly Ventures and Icebreaker.vc will allow Cerenion to commercialize its C-Trend™ brain monitoring technology (pat. pend.) based on standard EEG-measurement, advanced machine learning algorithms and artificial intelligence. The C-Trend™ solution aims to reveal the status of the brain as one simple score – at the bed-side and without requiring any changes to the care of the patient.

The technology was developed at the **University of Oulu**, Finland, and underwent clinical studies at the **Oulu University Hospital**, Finland, as part of a two-year **TEKES**-funded business development project (2015-2017). Cerenion Oy was set up in May 2017 to become the new custodian of the technology and the vehicle for its commercialization. The company was founded by the key personnel of the original research project, all of whom are now employed by the company.

Small Giant Games acquires \$41M Investment – Feb 2018



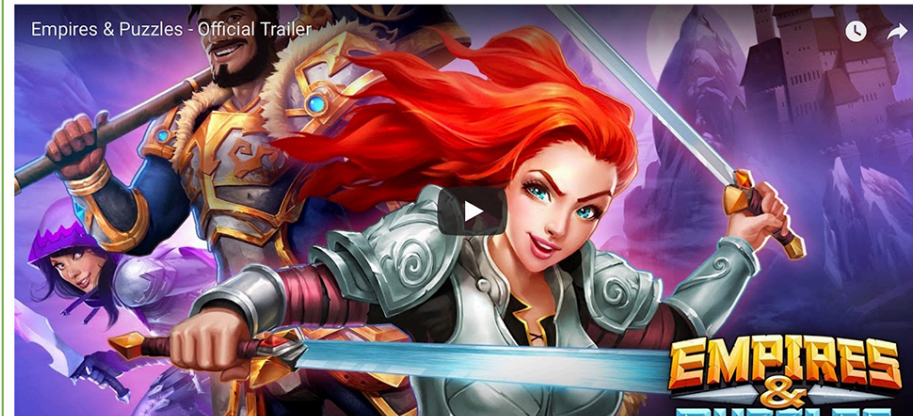
Finland

*As reported in
VentureBeat*



Empires & Puzzles maker Small Giant Games raises \$41 million for mobile titles

DEAN TAKAHASHI @DEANTAK FEBRUARY 20, 2018 5:00 AM



Finnish gaming companies have a strong record of on mobile, and the latest example is [Small Giant Games](#), which is announcing today that it has raised \$41 million in funding. The Helsinki-based studio of Empires & Puzzles has seen its first game generate more than 10 million downloads and \$33 million in revenue in less than a year.

The money comes from lead investor EQT Ventures and existing investors Creandum, Spintop Ventures, and Profounders. Small Giant Games will use part this to expand internationally, expand its developer and graphic designer staff, and continue to invest in Empires & Puzzles.

Small Giant Games CEO Timo Soininen said in an interview with GamesBeat that Empires & Puzzles took off in part because the company designed a game that was easy to play, using the familiar match-3 mechanics with a fantasy role-playing game full of light-hearted characters.

Soininen and a crew of mobile game veterans started the company in 2013, and they launched Empires & Puzzles in March, just 11 months after getting started. Soininen said the success of Empires & Puzzles just 10 months after its launch has made the company profitable.

CapA Fund II Announcement – Jan 2018



As reported in: >>

Bloomberg

Also reported in:
PEHub
Private Equity Wire
Alpha Week
The Drawdown
Unquote
Alt Assets
FinSMEs

Capital A Starts \$60 Million Venture Fund Targeting Nordics

- Fund to invest in IoT, nanotechnology, advanced materials
- CAP A plans to close the fund in the first half of 2018

By Kim Robert McLaughlin and Love Liman

(Bloomberg) -- Capital A Partners announced a \$60 million venture-capital fund focusing primarily on investments in the Nordic Region after securing early commitments from strategic investors including [Universal Electronics Inc.](#)

UEIC US Equity
Graphic Dashboard»

CAP A plans to close the fund in the first half of this year, the company said in an emailed statement Monday. The fund will target investments in sectors including the so-called Internet of Things, nanotechnology, advanced materials and human-computer interaction.

Through the fund, CAP A will fill "an important gap in local ecosystems which have not been saturated by venture capital like other hubs internationally," Managing Partner and co-founder [Tanya Marvin-Horowitz](#) said in the statement.

26 <G0> to Find Next, <Menu> to Return

4 Previous 3 Next 60 Send 90 Actions ▾ News: News
01/22/2018 12:16:00 [BN] B Translate to... "tanya" AND "hc"

Sweden, home to startups such as music streamer [Spotify Ltd.](#) and payments processor [Izettle AB](#), was ranked [second](#) in the 2017 Bloomberg Innovation Index, which scores economies using factors including research and development spending and the concentration of high-tech public companies. Finland was ranked fifth.

The new fund follows the 15 million-euro (\$18.4 million) Butterfly Venture Fund III, which CAP A launched in partnership with Finland-based Nordic seed investor [Butterfly Ventures](#), and pilot CAP A Fund I, consisting of 18 investments in the Nordic region and the U.S.

Related ticker:
[UEIC US \(Universal Electronics Inc\)](#)

CapA and Butterfly Exploring SLUSH (Finland), DLD (Israel) and CES (USA) – 2017-2018



Investments in Surgify, TVM, Chain, Ampliconyx and Popit Butterfly Ventures – Fall 2017

SURGIFY

Investment Round

Surgify Medical Oy, a Finnish startup company developing a novel neurosurgical burr, has raised a €1.0M financing round from a group of international investors. The investors joining the startup's second round of financing include a Finnish venture capital firm Butterfly Ventures, as well as Cascara Ventures from Belgium, Merkatura AB (Andreas Bunge) from Sweden and FRIIH GmbH (Dr. Michael Friebe) from Germany. The funding will be used to finalize the neurosurgical burr and to apply for a sales approval in Europe.



Picture: A surgeon using a drill in a simulated surgery

The Surgify Safety burr prevents the nerve and blood vessel injuries that are typically caused by other surgical drills. The innovative technology can be easily used with existing surgical drills, and its usage does not require any additional training for the surgeon or the staff. Besides neurosurgical applications, the innovation can be used in the future also in spine surgery and in the fields of orthopedics and dentistry.

The technology has raised great interest amongst hospitals and surgeons globally. For example, we recently visited Harvard University's teaching hospitals in Boston, and the reception was enthusiastic, tells Visa Sippola, the CEO of Surgify.

NORDIC 9

Deal Digest

Home > News from Scandinavia > TVM raises expansion capital in a round including Butterfly Ventures.

TVM raises expansion capital in a round including Butterfly Ventures.

Events • Hospitality • Online marketing • Software Services

Investments 09 August 2017

TVM, a Stockholm, Sweden-based digital marketing technology provider for the hospitality industry, announced it secured its first outside pre-seed funding from both existing and new investors.

Backers include [Butterfly Ventures](#) alongside several individual global entrepreneurs and investors.

The new funding will provide TVM with expansion capital to grow its installation base beyond its current 30+ hospitality ventures in Sweden and Turkey.

TVM, founded in 2016 by CEO Michael Demir, developed a platform that provides directed POS marketing through its in-venue display systems, incorporating both hardware and software solutions into its systems. The platform increases sales and brand awareness for the venues and for the brands they carry.

TVM.media
MediaTech
Sweden/Denver

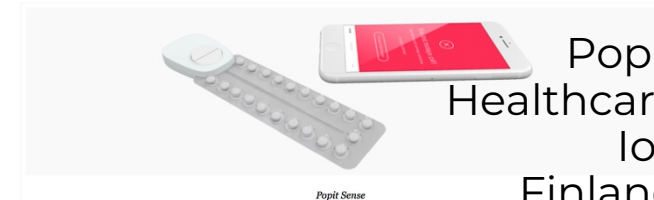
Surgify
Smart Surgical Device
Finland

Popit Raises €1.2M Seed Financing To Quantify Medication

23/08/2017 / by popit

Butterfly Ventures as the lead investor, funding used for bringing product to market

Helsinki, Finland, August 23rd 2017 – **Popit**, a Finnish startup focusing on medical technology solutions, has raised over €1.2M (\$1.4M) in seed financing. The capital was raised from [Butterfly Ventures](#) with participation from six private investors and [Tekes](#), the Finnish Funding Agency for Innovation. The funding consists of an investment and a loan, and will be used for bringing the pioneering device Popit Sense to market.



Popit
Healthcare
IoT
Finland

OTHERS:
Ladimo – Machine Vision – Finland
Chain Antimicrobial – Finland
Ampliconyx – Photonics - Finland

CapA with Ericsson Garage – STHLM TECH FEST - Nov 2017



Mantex IPO – Nasdaq First North – May 2017



Mantex
Industrial IoT
Sweden



Source: Nasdaq Nordic
May 05, 2017 04:45 ET

Nasdaq Stockholm Welcomes Mantex to First North

Stockholm, May 5, 2017 — Nasdaq (Nasdaq: NDAQ) announces that the trading in Mantex AB's shares (short name: MANTEX) commenced today on Nasdaq First North in Stockholm. Mantex belongs to the industrial sector and is the 33rd company to be admitted to trading on Nasdaq's Nordic markets* in 2017.

Mantex is a Swedish company using a patented x-ray technology to deliver real-time analysis of organic materials such as wood chips, biofuel and timber. Specifically, its technology can be used to measure the level of moisture content, dry mass and energy content – data that potentially can be used by industrial clients to increase productivity and efficiency in e.g. paper mills and biofuel power plants. Mantex is headquartered Kista, Sweden. For more information, please visit www.mantex.se.

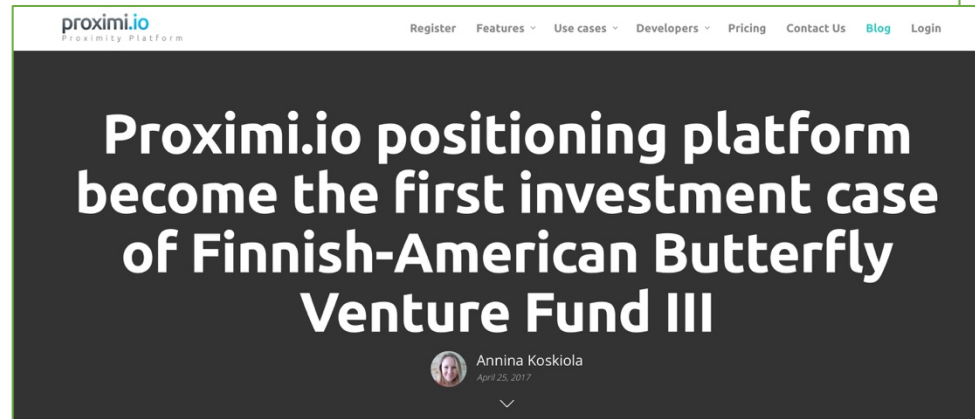
"This is a big day for Mantex, and we are very happy to finally be listed on Nasdaq First North," said Max Gerger, CEO of Mantex. "It is a very important step for us in our mission to bring our innovative technology to the rest of the world. Thanks everyone for making it possible."

"We welcome Mantex to Nasdaq First North," said Adam Kostyál, SVP and Head of European listings at Nasdaq. "We congratulate the company on its listing, and look forward to supporting them with the increased investor exposure that comes with a Nasdaq First North listing."

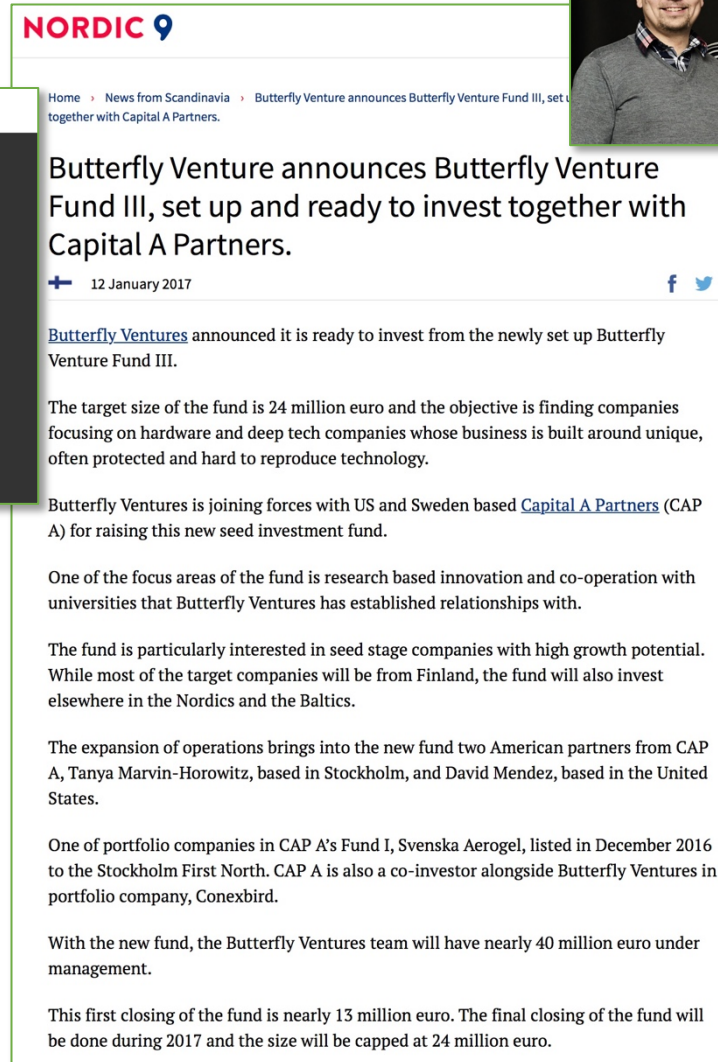
Mantex AB has appointed G&W Kapitalförvaltning AB as the Certified Adviser.

*Main markets and Nasdaq First North at Nasdaq Copenhagen, Nasdaq Helsinki, Nasdaq Iceland and Nasdaq Stockholm.

CapA + Butterfly Ventures Announce Partnership – Jan 2017 and First Investment – Proximi.io – Apr 2017



Proximi.io
IoT Positioning Tech
Finland
Founder - Annina Koskiola



Svenska Aerogel IPO – Nasdaq First North – Dec 2016

Stock market premiere for Svenska Aerogel

December 22, 2016

Tuesday, December 20, 2016 was the first trading day for Swedish Aerogel Holding on Nasdaq First North. The shares will be traded under the short name AERO.

CEO Anders Lundström and Chairman Christer Sjöström called traditionally in the exchange clock and the trade started immediately.



Svenska Aerogel is far ahead in the development of materials technology. The production process that has been developed at Svenska Aerogel enables the production of Quartzene®, at prices that opens the door for mass applications in large and growing areas

Svenska Aerogel Advanced Materials Sweden



Aerogel is not something new, it was created back in the 1930s, but what we have done is to create a production that dramatically lowers the cost and that opens up completely new application areas. We expect to revolutionize large parts of the market in our main areas of applications; insulation, paint and coating, and filtration. ", says Anders Lundström, CEO of Svenska Aerogel.

Two Winners – Zverse and Dynepic – Nov 2016



ZVerse Awarded 2016 InnoVision Technology Development Award

Program Recognizes 3D Content Creation Platform LAYR

NEWS PROVIDED BY
ZVerse, Inc. →
Nov 16, 2016, 13:48 ET

COLUMBIA, S.C., Nov. 16, 2016 /PRNewswire/ -- ZVerse was awarded the 2016 Technology Development Award at the InnoVision Awards dinner held at Hyatt Regency in Greenville, SC. ZVerse earned this award for the development of the LAYR platform which automates the production of 3D printable content.

LAYR provides the fastest path from an idea to a 3D printed object for both businesses and individuals. The patent pending technology is used by customers in healthcare, manufacturing, architecture, education and commercial printing industries. The software also makes it possible for anyone to offer 3D printing as a service.

Since 1999, the InnoVision Awards have recognized businesses in South Carolina for "outstanding leadership, innovation, and technological excellence." The Technology Development Award is awarded to the developer of an original or improved technology, whether for internal use or sale. Other finalists this year included Milliken & Company for a fire resistant polyester and Clemson University's Department of Materials Science and Engineering for a self healing polymer.

"Our team was proud just to be recognized as a finalist along with Milliken and Clemson University for the Technology Development Award. We are honored to have won against such incredible competition," said John Carrington, CEO at ZVerse.

About ZVerse: ZVerse makes 3D printing simple and affordable for businesses with our turnkey 3D printing platform, LAYR. Our technology is the perfect solution for institutions looking to expand into 3D printing. Features include industry-specific modules for 3D content automation, an improved user interface, access to ZVerse customer acquisition tools, 2D-to-3D automation, and workflow management. The suite of 3D print solutions is supported by expert consultation and a full-scale 3D print service bureau for those who do not have 3D printers on site. Learn more at www.zverse.com.

Zverse, 3D Printing Tech - USA



November 15, 2016 08:05 ET

Currently at TechStars Boulder!

Dynepic Wins Investment from The First Charleston Angel Conference to Complete Initial Round of Funding

Company selected from 30 participants to win \$100,000 award

CHARLESTON, SC--(Marketwired - Nov 15, 2016) - Dynepic, Inc., a startup focused on creating a platform to connect kids in the digital world and make it easier for parents to manage their activity online, today announced that it has won a \$100,000 investment from The Charleston Angel Conference. The company was selected as the most promising startup from a group of 30 participants who pitched their ideas over two days of demos to investors. The award completed the company's initial financing round, which was over-subscribed, totaling close to \$500,000 from investors in the Charleston area and around the nation, including Atlanta, Silicon Valley, Connecticut, and New York.

Dynepic CEO and co-founder, Krissa Watry, presented and won with her company's service for safely connecting children under 13 into apps, games, and toys, making it possible for them to connect legally and safely participate in the booming Internet of Things. Most importantly, the platform puts parents in control of who and what their kids connect with online and keeps brands compliant with the Child Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA).

The iOKids service allows companies to leverage Dynepic's iOKids profiles and parent-managed friend lists to build and launch social and community experiences within their apps, games, toys, and even smart home environments. This month, Dynepic launches a suite of apps to allow kids to start building their iOKids friend lists and even 'Chat with Santa.' Parents get their own app -- iOKids Parent -- where they can manage friend lists and provide consent to other apps and toys that utilize Dynepic's iOKids Connect Single Sign-on. The iOKids apps will be available for download from the app store before Thanksgiving, allowing kids to chat with Santa just in time for the Holidays.

"I am thrilled to see Dynepic come away with the first Charleston Angel Conference investment. Krissa did a terrific job presenting Dynepic, but more importantly, the company is well positioned with its round of funding and the participating investors enjoyed learning more about the opportunity," said John Osborne, founder of Charleston Angel Conference.

The Charleston Angel Conference is the optimal way for interested or active angel investors to gain exposure to the process of angel investing and meet several companies looking for investment. The Conference is open to any member of the community with a startup and those looking to support local entrepreneurs.

"I am extremely pleased to win the support and funding from The Charleston Angel Conference," said Krissa Watry, CEO and co-founder of Dynepic. "The exposure and investment from this impressive organization, along with our other initial investors, will help us as we deliver the most secure and dynamic platform for kids to participate in the increasingly digital world and gain the critical technology skills required to invent their future, all under the watchful eye of their parents."

About Dynepic

Dynepic was founded by Krissa Watry, a USAF Academy and MIT educated engineer, and Jacqueline Arn, a 40-year educator. The two partnered after Krissa spent her early career in the aerospace sector as a USAF officer and as a civilian designing and leading cutting edge technology development programs for the DoD, NASA, and in the commercial space. Krissa has power supplies that have docked with the International Space Station from her time leading program operations at Andrews Space, Inc., now known as Spaceflight Industries.

Dynepic, which received initial funding from the National Science Foundation, has developed iOKids -- a secure, social gateway that makes it easy to build and launch community experiences for kids in apps, and enables parents to manage how and with whom their children interact online. For more information on iOKids apps, please visit www.iokids.co or email info@dynepic.com.

Dynepic, IoT - USA

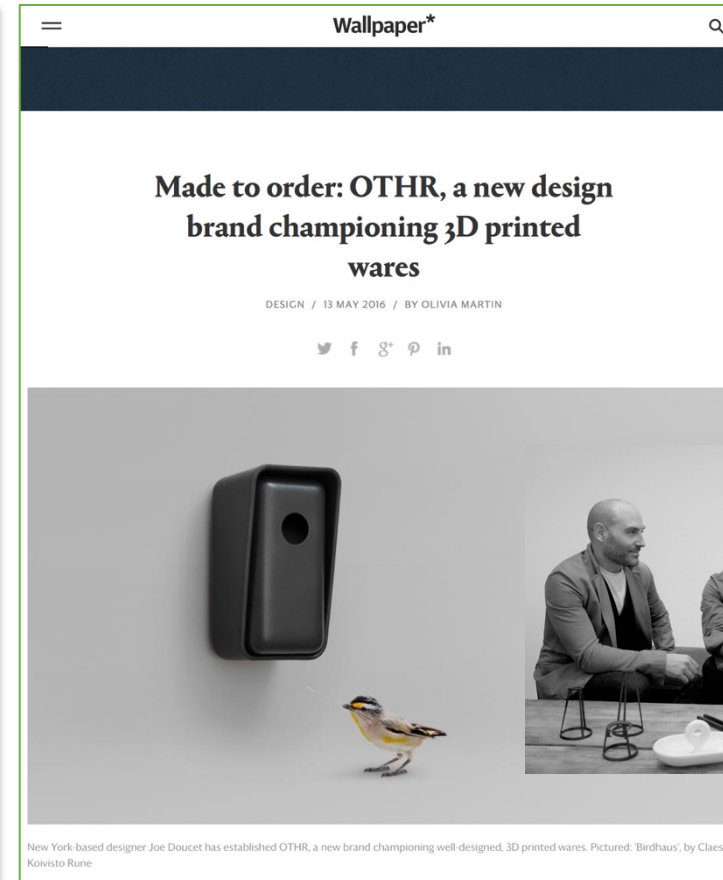
capA



CapA Investments in MusicTech and 3D Printing - 2016



Pacemaker - MusicTech – Sweden
TECHSTARS Music – Los Angeles - 2017



OTHR
3D Printing +
Ecommerce
USA

CapA Expands Nordic Reach with Conexbird and Kaptio - 2015



Conexbird Industrial IoT Finland

NORDIC 9 Deal Digest Data

Home > News from Scandinavia > Conexbird receives 650 000€ of funding

Conexbird receives 650 000€ of funding

Competitive Intelligence • Logistics
Investments 12 October 2015

October 12, 2015 – Conexbird Oy, a Finland-based technology provider for the maritime industry, has secured more than 650,000 Euros in funding from both existing and new investors.

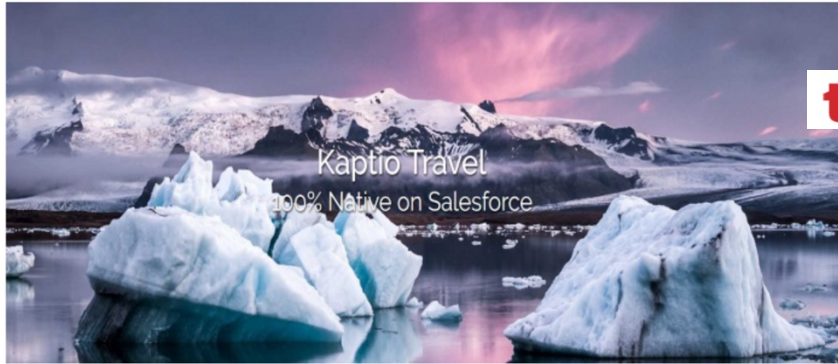
The additional funding will provide Conexbird with resources for commercialization of their container data analytics technology to be deployed in ports and terminals worldwide.

Existing investors, including Butterfly Ventures and Conexbird management, participated in the financing, as well as new investors, the Finnish Funding Agency for Innovation (TEKES) and Capital A Partners.

Capital A Partners “CAP A”, based between Sweden and the United States, participated in the financing to help Conexbird access global markets, particularly throughout Europe and North America.

“We are thrilled that our current investor group continues to support the company, and we welcome CAP A to the family,” stated Conexbird’s Director of Business Development, Kimmo Laakkonen. “Establishing a relationship with CAP A will help us establish a broader understanding of the European and U.S. market as well as expand our global customer base,” added Laakkonen. CAP A’s involvement in Conexbird is the first step in an ongoing co-investor relationship with Butterfly Ventures, a leading early stage venture capital firm based in Finland.

“CAP A identifies technology companies that have a global opportunity, and Conexbird exemplifies the kind of investments we target,” added Tanya Marvin-Horowitz, Managing Partner at Capital A Partners in Sweden. “Leveraging our network and access to potential customers and channel partners, and human and growth capital, CAP A intends on accelerating Conexbird’s global business by bringing the technology to the maritime sector,” concluded Marvin-Horowitz.

**tnooz**

Kaptio raises \$2.6 million to expand Salesforce-powered reservation system

[Kaptio](#) has captured the attention of two venture capital firms to back it with a \$2.6 million capital-raise.

[Capital A Partners](#) and [Frumtak II](#) both participated in the round, in a bid to help Kaptio grow its product development and sales efforts.

Iceland-based Kaptio emerged in 2009 and has since gone on to develop a reservation and CRM platform that sits within a brand’s [Salesforce](#) database.

The platform allows a brand to manage customer bookings, but also helps travel agents and tour operators to structure and operate communications with travel resellers and suppliers.

CEO and co-founder Arnar Laufdal Olafsson says:

“This funding is a vote of confidence in our vision of transforming the world of travel together with our customers and partners and is a stepping stone in becoming the ‘Veeva’ of travel.”

“It will allow us to bring further efficiency, simplicity and time savings to the travel industry – helping our clients in the UK and overseas to put customer experience at the heart of everything they do.”

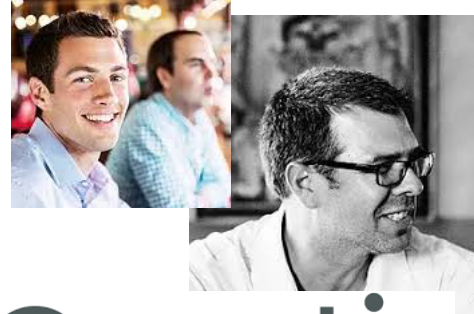
Following its formation in Iceland, the company has grown to have a team of 16, with offices in the UK, Belarus, and Germany.

Kaptio – SalesTech
Iceland

CapA and Butterfly Continue a Flurry of Investing in Innovators – 2014-2017



Mobile Enterprise Experts
OpenRatio - Sweden



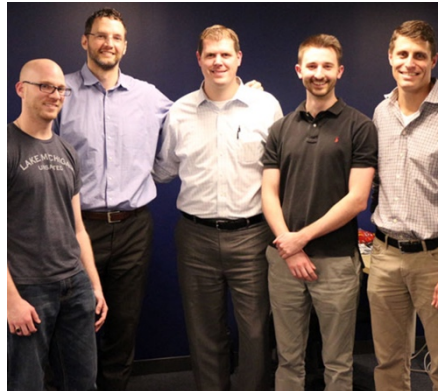
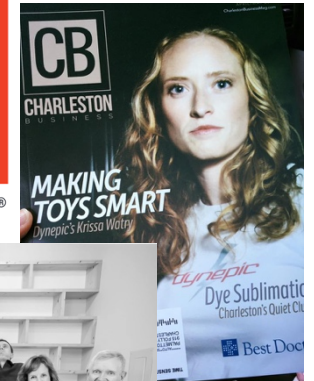
Questis

Financial Wellness Fintech
Questis - USA

Founder and US
Veteran - Krissa Watry
USA



Dynepic®



HR+SalesTech - USA

PerformYard



CapA's Early USA Exits – BlowPro and Iron Yard – 2014-2015



BlowPro
Consumer
USA

June 03, 2014

BLOW-OUT BAR PIONEER SELLS BLOWPRO BIZ

Interest in the blow-out bar sector of the hair market continues to grow from both a consumer and industry standpoint. Case in point: the recent purchase of Blowpro by Basim Shami, CEO of Farouk Systems, Inc. "It was love at first sight," said Basel Badran, Blowpro's new general manager. "The blow-out industry hasn't matured yet and we're proud to be at the forefront."

The acquisition seems a natural fit, considering Farouk's success in the hair tools arena, most notably with the Chi line. (Indeed, a Blowpro hairdryer—the company's first foray into tools—is in the works.) Blowpro is the first brand to become part of Beauty Elite Group, a new company Basim has founded. "Our goal is to build an entire portfolio of unique brands that we can grow," Basel explained. "We think this is going to be the first of many acquires."

Although Blowpro has become known for its hair care products—like a heat protective primer to use pre-blow-out and a dry texturizing spray—the company, founded in the mid-2000s, was initially focused on blow-out bars, something now very much at the forefront. Blow, the first ever salon with that dedicated focus, opened in a former antique store in New York City's Meatpacking District in 2005. "I discovered a white space in the marketplace: eight out of 10 women in the U.S. blew dry their hair but there were no services catering to them," explained Stuart Sklar, Blowpro's founder, who built his professional career at L'Oreal, Avon and Coty. "Traditional salons really didn't look at blow-outs as anything important, other than a finishing, so I had an 'aha' moment. From the first couple of months we knew were onto something significant."

Although blow quickly resonated with customers, Stuart admitted that starting a company isn't easy. "When you're used to working with tons of resources and infrastructure, there are people, there's money, there are tons of ways of executing an idea," he says. "When you have limited funds and limited resources, both human and financial, you can just do so much, so you have to pace yourself and you have to learn to say no, which is tougher than saying yes. There's so much opportunity to develop and build and market a business that you have to be very disciplined with your plan; you have to be very focused and you have to keep your eye on the ball."

A few years after opening blow, a product line, Blowpro, was launched; it is still successful and sold at Ulta, HSN, Nordstrom and Macy's Herald Square. In 2011, Stuart sold part of the company to entrepreneur David Maleh; the balance of the company was sold to Farouk's Beauty Elite Group in May.

Stuart feels Beauty Elite Group is the ideal company to own blow. "It was just a very natural fit," he said. "They're hair care experts and they're compatible in their distribution and salons. It was nice synergy and they know the space." Stuart intended to take the summer off, but instead—having been approached by several companies—is consulting at the moment. "I love the industry and I don't want to retire," he said. "I love keeping busy. I'm keeping my options open for the future."

As essentially the inventor of the blow-out bar, Stuart said he is happy for the success of thriving blow-out chains such as Alli Webb's Drybar. "It's a different strategy and it's very good branding," he said. "Our services were more flagship orientated—they took it and commercialized the blow-out. I don't mean that in a derogatory way at all. As they grew, now blow dry bars are popping up everywhere, so this movement was sort of validated."

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TECH AND DESIGN

Iron Yard closes 'significant' investment from University of Phoenix owner

By Staff - June 25, 2015



Based in Greenville, one of the planet's largest coding schools expects to graduate 1,000 developers this year, and it's about to get a lot bigger, a lot faster.

Coding school The Iron Yard closed on a "significant" investment from higher-learning behemoth [Apollo Education Group](#), owner of [University of Phoenix](#) and other institutions.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed, but Apollo's size dictates that "they're not the type of company where it makes a difference to invest hundreds of thousands of dollars," said The Iron Yard CEO Peter Barth.

The investment will accelerate the tech company's growth, help the school expand internationally and open opportunities for new content and customers, said Barth.

Iron Yard
EdTech
USA

CapA Launches Fund I with MediaTech Investment – Aug 2013



NYC RECEPTION A HUGE SUCCESS!

November 08, 2013 / David Mendez

The NYC Reception was a Huge Success. Sponsored by Willis & Co., and hosted by Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, with food, drink and gifts provided by World of Beer, BlowPro Inc., Questis and Best Chefs America. Attendees included executives from the following firms:

Accretive - ACG New York - Anchin, Block & Anchin - Arlon Group - Barrett Capital

Berkery, Noyes & Co. - BlowPro - Brookwood Companies - Capital IQ

Compass Equity - Core Capital - DealMarket - Double Cross Vodka

Drinker Biddle & Reath - Ellen Oppenheim Media - Emerging Globe Group

GCA Savvian - Grassi & Co. - Graycliff Partners - Great America Group

GreenWave Smoothies - Intl F.C. Stone - Lincolnshire Management - Live Clips

Loeb & Loeb - Loeb's Foods - LundXO - McGladrey - McGuireWoods

Merrill Corporation - Miller Canfield Paddock and Stone - New Oak Capital

North Capital - Perennial Strategy Group - Pouschine Cook Capital Mgmt

Prospect Street Capital - Riazul Tequila - Riverside Company - Spencer Clarke

T5 Equity Partners - Tatum - Tjong & Hsia LLP - Venable - Violy & Co.

Willis Group - World of Beer



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Capital A Partners Gives Funding to Best Chefs America

September 15, 2013 | Industry News

Best Chefs America, publisher of the ultimate chef's guide to chefs, is pleased to announce a venture capital investment from Capital A Partners. The partnership marks the launch of the Charleston/New York-based venture and private equity fund in South Carolina.



"This is a very positive endorsement for the Best Chefs America brand and a sign of great things to come," says Bill Blalock, CEO of Best Chefs America. "Chefs and culinary enthusiasts from across the country have embraced our inaugural edition. We look forward to continuing to honor those chefs chosen by their peers for inclusion and to making great use of the valuable content that has been generated from our research."

"We are excited about this first investment in Best Chefs America," says David Mendez, general partner of Capital A. "The early momentum of the business, the proven business model and the capital efficiency of its operation represents the type of investments Capital A will be making."

