

February 5th - February 11th

PERSPECTIVES by Steve Payne

Just when we'd gotten used to three announced transactions a week, the cosmos (with a small "c") sent us six deals this week.

The biggest deal. Crypto custodian and financial services firm BitGo announced it had acquired Brassica, an alternative assets infrastructure provider. BitGo CEO Mike Belshe put it well: "We currently have a dichotomy in financial services - one side deals with traditional securities and the other deals with up-and-coming blockchain-based assets and cryptocurrencies. With this acquisition, BitGo becomes the first major financial services firm to be able to provide comprehensive infrastructure support for both traditional private securities and blockchain-based assets, while significantly expanding our global presence." Brassica offers back-end infrastructure services for private securities and alternative investments, including multi-asset custody, record-keeping and transfer agent services. This move by BitGo is seen as a step towards offering tokenized securities (RWA). Terms were not announced, but Brassica investors such as Mercury Fund, Valor Equity Partners and Long Journey Ventures were reported to be receiving shares in BitGo. Brassica had raised an \$8M seed round at a \$26M valuation in 2023, and BitGo had most recently raised \$100M in 2023 at a \$1.75B valuation.

Trade finance in Singapore. Two smaller transactions were announced this week: xalts, an HK-based provider of infrastructure for programmable assets, acquired struggling Singapore-based digital trade finance network Contour. Contour had raised \$4.9M from Bangkok Bank, Citi Ventures, Standard Chartered, etc. and had signed a few dozen large banks. Also, Singapore-based global invoice financing network Incomlend acquired fellow Singapore Web3-powered trade finance network LC Lite.

How to acquire a DAO. Venture studio SYS Labs this week announced taking a majority stake in Uno Re DAO, a provider of DeFi insurance coverage with \$15M in on-chain policies. SYS is behind the Syscoin and Rollux ecosystems, and drove the non-cash merger to strengthen their L2 offerings. The DAO proposal to have SYSLabs replace some Uno Re DAO Core Contributors with SYS Lab executives was approved by 100% of those voting. Uno Re gets new leadership and resources to continue its mission.

Events

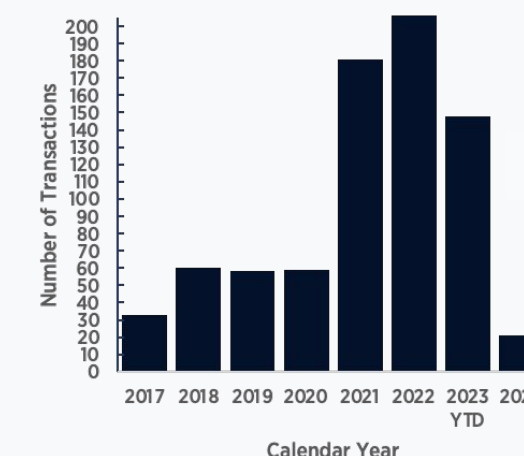
If you missed us at the Satoshi Roundtable last week, Architect Partners will next be at ETH Denver (2/29 - 3/3), and Digital Asset Summit (3/18 - 3/20). Please contact elliott@architectpartners.com or arjun@architectpartners.com if you would like to meet.

RECENT CRYPTO M&A TRANSACTIONS (click here for full AP M&A Tracker)

Target	Acquirer	Transaction Summary	AP M&A Alert
BRASSICA	BitGo	Transaction Value: Not Disclosed Rationale: Expanded product set for traditional instruments Sector: Investing & Trading Infrastructure Target Description: SEC registered transfer agent, who also offers custody, for private securities and alternative investments	○
Mining Facilities	CleanSpark ✨	Transaction Value: \$20M Cash Rationale: Expanded hash-rate Sector: Mining & Staking Target Description: 3 Bitcoin mining facilities in Mississippi with 2.4 EH/s of hashrate.	○
REFLEXIVITY RESEARCH	Defi TECHNOLOGIES	Transaction Value: Not disclosed Rationale: Data product offering Sector: Data & Data Analytics Target Description: Crypto-native research firm focused on traditional investors.	○
CONTOUR	xalts	Transaction Value: Not disclosed Rationale: Product enhancement and expansion Sector: Investing & Trading Infrastructure Target Description: Trade finance platform focused on building a decentralized network.	○
LCLITE	INCOMLEND Connecting Your Cash, Globally	Transaction Value: Not disclosed Rationale: Trade finance product expansion Sector: Investing & Trading Infrastructure Target Description: Trade receivables platform utilizing blockchain technology.	○
Uno Re	SYSLABS	Transaction Value: Not disclosed Rationale: Enhanced security and insurance coverage for users Sector: Investing & Trading Infrastructure Target Description: DeFi insurance platform focused on retail and institutional clients.	○

OVERALL CRYPTO M&A ACTIVITY LEVELS

Past Seven Years



Past 52 Weeks

