## FT PARTNERS FINTECH INDUSTRY RESEARCH

June 3, 2022

## **FINTECH CEO INTERVIEW:**



with Co-Founder & CEO: Peter Smith

**Retail and Institutional Crypto Solutions** 



The Only Investment Bank Focused Exclusively on FinTech

### **Blockchain.com Overview**



#### **Company Overview**



Co-Founder & CEO Peter Smith
Headquarters: London, UK; Miami, FL
Founded: 2011

- Blockchain.com is a leading crypto company helping millions across the globe, from individuals to large institutions, easily and securely access cryptocurrency
- The Company has diverse offerings across the digital asset ecosystem serving Consumer and Institutional customers in over 200 countries
- Blockchain.com's digital asset platform and wallet software offers a multi-chain, multi-custody, full brokerage product supporting 1,000+ digital assets and millions of active users worldwide
- The Company's institutional platform has a wide range of services from lending, prime brokerage, structured products, derivatives pricing and more that are trusted by major institutional clients







~40M verified users



#### **Selected Financing History**

Date	Amount (\$ in mm)	Selected Investor(s)
03/30/22	na	Baillie Gifford, Lightspeed Ventures
03/24/21	\$317	Baillie Gifford, Lightspeed Ventures
02/17/21	120	Access Industries, Eldridge, GV, Lakestar, Lightspeed Ventures, Moore Strategic Ventures, Rovida Advisors
06/22/17	40	Lakestar, GV, Nokota, Digital Currency Group, Lightspeed Ventures, Mosaic Ventures, Prudence Holdings, Virgin Group

#### **Products and Services Overview**

#### Exchange

High-speed execution and liquidity across 80 asset pairs and access to margin with up to 5x leverage

# **a**

#### Wallet

The world's most popular wallet for self custody allowing the transfer / sale & purchase of digital assets and reward accumulation on deposits with best-in-class security infrastructure



For Individuals

For Institutions

#### **Explorer**

Data tool that allows users to explore token prices, recently mined blocks, NFTs, etc. to learn about the cryptocurrency market

## ,

#### Institutional Client Services

- **Prime Brokerage** services, including execution in spot and options, margin capability and secure custody of client funds
- Institutional Trading with low-latency API access to exchange liquidity
- Structured Products & Lending offering bespoke solutions for crypto operators



#### Principal Trading & Investments

- Active Trading strategies capturing digital asset market structure opportunities
- Active Network Participation in DeFi and strategic investments with overlap across institutional business

### Interview with Blockchain.com



→ Blockchain.com

Peter Smith

Co-founder & CEO

Peter Smith is the CEO & Co-Founder of Blockchain, a financial technology and data company that has empowered millions of users across the globe to store and transact digital value quickly and without costly intermediaries.

Peter is a 2016 World Economic Forum Technology Pioneer and thought leader in the FinTech space, having been featured in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, CNBC, Bloomberg, Fox Business, and TechCrunch, and spoken at conferences around the world. Prior to co-founding Blockchain, Peter lived, studied, and worked in the US, Europe, MENA, East Africa, and Asia.

"The institutional business has done over \$25B in trading volume, \$8B in loan originations, and has more than 1,000 clients."

# Please give us a quick overview of Blockchain.com and where your business is now.

Founded in 2011, Blockchain.com is the world's oldest, most trusted, and most widely-used platform for transacting in crypto for individuals and institutions. We offer an easy way to invest in cryptocurrency for tens of millions of customers in over 200 countries. More than 10 years in, we've grown to 37M verified users and 82M wallets created.

The institutional business has done over \$25B in trading volume, \$8B in loan originations, and has more than 1,000 clients.

2021 was a blockbuster year for the company. We surpassed \$1.2 trillion transacted on the platform, acquired multiple companies, moved the U.S. headquarters to Miami, more than doubled the team (200 to 550), and began an ambitious expansion effort into Latin America after key acquisitions.

### Interview with Blockchain.com (cont.)



#### Blockchain.com

### **CEO Interview - Peter Smith**

"Over the last decade, individual retail investors have dominated crypto. As mainstream appeal grew, we started to see the first institutional adoption. The increasing institutional capital flow into the crypto markets is just beginning."

How do you see the shift from crypto's traditional retail-centric market structure to more B2B models playing out, and how is Blockchain.com positioned to win out?

Over the last decade, individual retail investors have dominated crypto. As mainstream appeal grew, we started to see the first institutional adoption. The increasing institutional capital flow into the crypto markets is just beginning.

We predicted this wave, and have been offering crypto services to institutions since 2019. Institutional now makes up 50% of our business, and is the fastest growing segment. We're positioned to win thanks to stability offered by a strong capital base, cash positions, and liquidity reserves made possible by our 50/50 retail-institutional business model, and we'll continue to focus on growing both.

How do you see the shift from crypto's traditional retail-centric market structure to more B2B models playing out, and how is Blockchain.com positioned to win out?

Despite recent volatility, the price of bitcoin has remained relatively stable for the first time ever, making it a strong bellwether for crypto and a safe store of assets. Zooming out, the price of bitcoin is still up nearly 200% from two years ago.

Those of us who've been in crypto long enough know not to sweat the daily or weekly volatility, and to stay focused on the long-term.

## Blockchain.com

## Interview with Blockchain.com (cont.)



### Blockchain.com

### **CEO Interview - Peter Smith**

"Down markets like this expose weaker protocols, assets, and investors, which ultimately lead to a stronger decentralized ecosystem. Those that can weather down markets have a good chance of surviving longterm."

### Going beyond your company, do you see any structural impacts from these types of market cycles?

Creative destruction is ultimately helpful in consolidating the crypto economy (and any economy, for that matter). Down markets like this expose weaker protocols, assets, and investors, which ultimately lead to a stronger decentralized ecosystem. Those that can weather down markets have a good chance of surviving long-term.

And, bear markets are the best time for building. Some of the best work in crypto is done in the months that follow moments like these.

Like I recently told CNBC, it's going to take a few weeks, if not months, to see the ripple effect of a really brutal two or three weeks for crypto.

### How do you distinguish true value creators in the industry?

I think true value creators can be identified via tenure and adoption. The projects and protocols that survive multiple down markets demonstrate that they can stand the test of time. Another indicator is if they've amassed a large user base, showing real use cases.

Let's use TerraUST as an example. The Terra network was only four years old, and its LUNA token only three. While TerraUST had amassed a \$60B market cap, it was still fairly young in the grand scheme of things.

Distribution is also key to creating true value. There are many projects in crypto with innovative technology or an interesting product design, but few with scale. And it takes scale to scale further.

## FinTech CEO Interview: Blockchain.com

### Interview with Blockchain.com (cont.)





### Blockchain.com

### **CEO Interview - Peter Smith**

"We're doubling down on global expansion, with an eye towards emerging markets like Latin America and Africa... We're focusing heavily on localization, and ensuring we have smooth fiat on and off ramps in those nations so citizens can easily engage with the crypto marketplace."

### What can you tell us about your first-of-its-kind partnership with the Dallas Cowboys, and why you believe the fit is perfect?

We're proud to be the first crypto brand to partner with an NFL team. We passed on many other opportunities to focus on partners that are first in their category, founder or family led, and have a reputation for integrity and long-term thinking. With the Cowboys, we've found our match.

Going into business with leaders who share our values is important to us and the Jones family. They've built a first class franchise both on and off the field, and we are excited to build our partnership with them over the coming decade, helping the world better understand and access crypto, Web3, and the future of finance.

### What other exciting developments can we expect from Blockchain.com?

We're doubling down on global expansion, with an eye towards emerging markets like Latin America and Africa. In those nations, crypto is a need vs. a want – oftentimes it's the first entrypoint to a financial system and financial freedom. We're focusing heavily on localization, and ensuring we have smooth fiat on and off ramps in those nations so citizens can easily engage with the crypto marketplace.

We will expand our activations and partnerships in both sports and gaming, as 3rd party validation and innovative product integrations offer an opportunity to introduce crypto to new audiences.

Our institutional business will continue to serve crypto-native institutions, funds, and projects, while helping to educate traditional financial institutions on the best way to allocate to crypto.

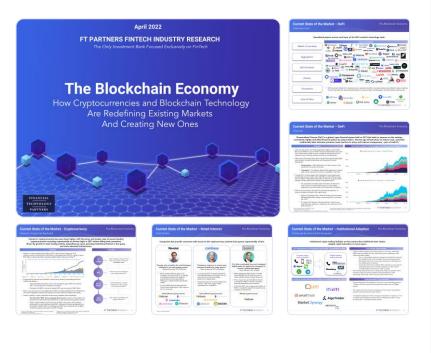
The current market environment will likely see amazing talent and teams needing a home and we believe Blockchain.com is positioned to absorb incredible talent and technology.

Finally, we're excited to launch our NFT Marketplace very soon, which will immediately provide 82 million wallet holders access to buy, sell and store NFTs.

## FT Partners Research – The Blockchain Economy

## The Blockchain Economy:

How Cryptocurrencies and Blockchain Technology Are Redefining Existing Markets and Creating New Ones



**Click pictures to view report** 

Activity surrounding blockchain, cryptocurrencies, and other digital assets has surged over the past few years. As a result, a true "blockchain economy" has emerged as billions of dollars are flowing through cryptocurrencies and other digital assets such as non-fungible tokens (NFTs) every day. Retail and institutional adoption continues to accelerate in pace, and the ecosystem may be on the precipice of its largest evolution yet given the growing interest in decentralized finance (DeFi). The blockchain economy continues to grow and develop new use cases, though there remain significant technological, organizational, and behavioral challenges that will need to be addressed before the technology becomes fully integrated with the existing global economy.

#### Key discussion topics of the report include:

- A primer on key blockchain technologies and use cases, and an overview of the current state of the blockchain economy
- A detailed landscape of companies in the crypto, blockchain and DeFi space
- A proprietary list of financing and M&A transactions
- Profiles of over 40 companies and 20 transactions in the space

## Selected FT Partners Capital Markets / Wealth Tech Transactions

#### **M&A Transactions**

















































FT Partners has advised on some of the most prominent and groundbreaking transactions in the Securities / Capital Markets / Wealth Technology sectors

## FT Partners Advises Forge on its Merger with Motive Capital Corp.

#### **Overview of Transaction**

- On September 13, 2021, Forge announced its merger with Motive Capital Corp.
- Upon completion of the transaction, the combined company is expected to have a pro forma fully diluted equity value of approximately \$2.0 billion (1)
  - Expected gross proceeds are \$532.5 million, prior to the payment of transaction expenses and up to \$100 million of cash consideration
  - The combination is further supported by a \$50 million commitment under Motive Partners' Forward Purchase Agreement and a \$68.5 million PIPE anchored by ION Group's \$50 million commitment and contributions from Temasek and Adit Ventures
- Forge's digital platform streamlines liquidity for hundreds of unicorn issuers and thousands of institutional and retail investors from around the world
  - Leveraging its robust technology, operations and trust infrastructure,
     Forge delivers a suite of services that includes trading, custody, data and company solutions
- Since inception, Forge has completed more than \$10 billion in transactions in more than 400 private companies

#### **Significance of Transaction**

- The confidence demonstrated by Motive Capital Corp, and other investors is a testament to Forge's business model, management and market opportunity
- Motive Partners intends to be a long-term strategic partner to Forge, accelerating growth and innovation in a market with substantial tailwinds

#### FT Partners' Role

- FT Partners served as strategic and financial advisor to Forge
- FT Partners previously advised Forge on its \$150 million financing in May 2021, its merger with SharesPost in May 2020, its acquisition of IRA Services in October 2019, and its \$70 million Series B financing in July 2018
- This transaction highlights FT Partners' deep domain expertise within Capital Markets Tech, as well as its successful track record generating highly favorable outcomes for high-growth FinTech companies globally

### Financial Technology Partners LP FTP Securities LLC

is pleased to announce its role as strategic and financial advisor to



on its merger with



**MOTIVE CAPITAL CORP** 

(NYSE: MOTV)

for total consideration of

\$2,000,000,000



## FT Partners Advises CAIS on its \$225 million in Series C Financing

#### Overview of Transaction

- On January 11, 2022, CAIS announced it has raised \$225 million of new capital in its Series C financing round at a post-money valuation of more than \$1 billion
  - The investment was led by Apollo Global Management and Motive Partners, with participation from Franklin Templeton
- CAIS is a leading alternative investment platform for financial advisors who seek improved access to and education about alternative investment funds and structured products
  - CAIS provides financial advisors with a broad menu of alternative investment strategies, including hedge funds, private equity, private credit, real estate, and structured products
  - CAIS offers a customized experience to a wide range of wealth management firms, including small- to mid-sized RIAs, large RIA aggregation platforms, and independent / regional broker-dealers
- Today, over 4,400 of independent financial advisors, who in total oversee more than \$2 trillion in assets, use the CAIS platform to access alternative investments

#### **Significance of Transaction**

- This investment accelerates CAIS mission to modernize how investors access alternative investments and advances the critical role CAIS plays in revolutionizing how the alternative investment and wealth management communities engage, learn, and transact
- CAIS will use the proceeds of this financing round to fuel further advancements in technology, enhance the customer experience, invest in the digitization of product operations and processes, and explore strategic opportunities

#### FT Partners' Role

- FT Partners served as exclusive financial advisor to CAIS
- The transaction highlights FT Partners' industry-leading expertise and successful track record within the Wealth and Capital Markets Tech space

### Financial Technology Partners LP FTP Securities LLC

is pleased to announce its role as exclusive financial advisor to

CAIS

on its Series C financing from

APOLLO



MOTIVE BARTNER

FRANKLIN

for total consideration of

\$225,000,000 at a valuation of \$1,000,000,000+

FINANCIAL
TECHNOLOGY
PARTNERS

## FT Partners Advises AlphaSense on its \$180 million Series C Financing

#### Overview of Transaction

- On September 30, 2021, AlphaSense announced it has raised \$180 million in a Series C financing round led by Viking Global Investors and Goldman Sachs Asset Management (GSAM) Growth Equity
  - Viking Global Investors is a global investment firm founded in 1999 that manages ~\$58bn of capital for investors
  - GSAM Growth Equity ("Goldman Sachs") has invested over \$13bn in companies led by visionary founders and CEOs
  - Alliance Bernstein, Bank of America, Barclays, Citi, Cowen, Morgan
     Stanley, Wells Fargo and other investors also participated in the round
- AlphaSense is a leading market intelligence and search platform with operations in the United States, Europe, and India
  - AlphaSense leverages AI and NLP to extract insights from an extensive universe of public and private content, enabling professionals to make critical decisions with confidence and speed
  - AlphaSense is trusted by a majority of S&P 500 companies including 70% of top asset management firms and 76% of top consultancies

#### Significance of Transaction

- The capital infusion will be used to further invest in product development, content expansion and customer support, and to drive organic growth as well as acquisitions
- Through international expansion, AlphaSense plans to continue investing in global and foreign-language content and expanding its customer service and engineering teams worldwide

#### FT Partners' Role

- FT Partners served as exclusive strategic and financial advisor to AlphaSense
- FT Partners previously advised AlphaSense on its \$50 million Series B financing round in 2019 and its \$33 million growth financing round in 2016
- This transaction highlights FT Partners' industry-leading expertise within the Information Technology / Capital Markets space and its successful track record

# Financial Technology Partners LP FTP Securities LLC

is pleased to announce its role as exclusive strategic and financial advisor to



on its Series C financing led by



Goldman Sachs

with participation from









Morgan Stanley COWEN

for a total amount of

\$180,000,000



## FT Partners Advises Say Technologies on its \$140 million Sale to Robinhood

#### **Overview of Transaction**

- On August 10, 2021, Robinhood (NASDAQ:HOOD) announced it had agreed to acquire Say Technologies for approximately \$140 million
- Say is a mission-driven company that has built an innovative communication platform making it easier for investors to exercise their ownership rights
  - Say's proxy processing technology helps broker-dealers give their customers seamless access to their vote, and its Q&A platform lets everyday shareholders participate in events like earnings by asking and upvoting questions
- Robinhood is an online broker that offers commission-free investing in US securities and cryptocurrencies, fractional trading, and cash management
  - Robinhood's mission is to democratize finance and make investing accessible with education and information, fractional shares, IPO access, and more

#### Significance of Transaction

- As part of Robinhood, Say will be able to further its goal of creating a new ecosystem of ownership and engagement to benefit all investors and companies
- Together the companies will find new ways to expand what it means to be an investor through new products and experiences that democratize shareholder access

#### FT Partners' Role

- FT Partners served as exclusive financial and strategic advisor to Say Technologies
- This transaction underscores FT Partners' deep Wealth & Capital Markets
  Tech domain expertise and successful track record of generating favorable
  outcomes for leading companies globally

# Financial Technology Partners LP

is pleased to announce its role as exclusive strategic and financial advisor to



on its sale to



for approximately

\$140,000,000



## FT Partners Advises Abra on its Series C Financing

#### Overview of Transaction

- On September 15, 2021, Abra announced it has raised \$55 million in Series C financing led by IGNIA and Blockchain Capital with participation from new investors Kingsway Capital and Tiga Investments
- Additional participation in the round came from existing investors including Amex Ventures, Arbor Ventures, Lerer Hippeau, and Kenetic Advisors
- Founded by Bill Barhydt in 2014, Abra is the leading wealth management platform in the crypto space, allowing hundreds of thousands of users to earn yield on crypto assets, trade over 100 virtual currencies, and borrow against crypto holdings
  - Abra has processed over \$1 billion in crypto-backed loans and paid millions of dollars in interest to retail and institutional clients
  - Abra Earn offers users to earn competitive interest rates on crypto assets, including up to 8% interest on stablecoins, compounded daily
  - Abra's cross-border lending platform matches developed market investors with developing market borrowers to capitalize on a massive yield arbitrage opportunity

#### Significance of Transaction

- The investment will fuel Abra's rapid user base growth and support its continued commitment to expanding the product suite and capabilities
- Abra's Series C financing will allow the company's world-class development team to further expand its product suite for wealth management, trading, and payments, with a focus on offerings for high-net-worth clients and institutions

#### FT Partners' Role

- FT Partners served as exclusive financial and strategic advisor to Abra
- This transaction highlights FT Partners' industry-leading expertise within the burgeoning crypto space, as well as its successful track record of generating highly favorable outcomes for high-growth FinTech companies globally

### Financial Technology Partners LP FTP Securities LLC

is pleased to announce its role as exclusive strategic and financial advisor to



on its Series C financing led by





for a total amount of

\$55,000,000



## FT Partners Advises Nutmeg on its £45 million Series E Financing

#### Overview of Transaction

- On January 22, 2019, Nutmeg announced it has raised £45 million in its Series
   E financing round led by Goldman Sachs and Convoy
  - Goldman Sachs' Principal Strategic Investments Group is a new investor in the Nutmeg platform, while Convoy, a Hong Kong-based financial advisory firm, is investing for a second time
  - Convoy first invested in Nutmeg in November 2016
- Headquartered in London, Nutmeg is a digital wealth manager operating in the U.K. and Asia (Hong Kong / Taiwan)
  - Nutmeg provides bespoke automated advice and discretionary portfolio management with exposure to multiple asset classes, through its diversified ETF-based portfolios
  - Nutmeg serves more than 60,000 active investors and manages approximately £1.5 billion in assets under management

#### Significance of Transaction

- Nutmeg's Series E financing is the largest funding round by a European digital wealth manager to-date
- Demonstrates Goldman Sachs' continued focus on consumer facing FinTech following the launch of Marcus, its online savings account in the UK

#### FT Partners' Role

- FT Partners served as exclusive strategic and financial advisor to Nutmeg
- This transaction underscores FT Partners' strong domain expertise and successful track record in the WealthTech space

### Financial Technology Partners LP FTP Securities LLC

is pleased to announce its role as exclusive strategic and financial advisor to



in its Series E Financing from





for total consideration of

£45,000,000



## FT Partners Advises Forge on its Merger with SharesPost

#### Overview of Transaction

- On May 12, 2020, Forge announced its merger with SharesPost
- SharesPost is a private market alternative trading system focused on enabling retail and institutional investors and company employees to access liquidity
  - Founded in 2009, SharesPost built the first private equity marketplace, which strove to connect buyers and sellers of private securities through its proprietary trading platform
- Forge's digital platform streamlines liquidity for hundreds of unicorn issuers and thousands of institutional and retail investors from around the world
  - Leveraging its robust technology, operations and trust infrastructure,
     Forge delivers a suite of services that includes trading, custody, data and company solutions

#### Significance of Transaction

- Together, the two companies will create one of the largest global private securities marketplaces, bringing liquidity and transparency at scale to pre-IPO companies and investors
- Combined, the two will have facilitated thousands of transactions with more than \$6 billion in private market transaction volume, for hundreds of unique issuers and over 1 million customers
- The deal will provide Forge with deeper insight on private company trends, as well as bid, offer, and pricing data that provides transparency to clients and partners to better understand and engage in the private markets

#### FT Partners' Role

- FT Partners served as exclusive strategic and financial advisor to Forge
- FT Partners previously advised Forge on its \$70 million Series B financing
- This transaction underscores FT Partners' deep alternative marketplace domain expertise and its continued success in providing buy-side advisory to top-tier FinTech companies

# FTP Securities LLC.

is pleased to announce its exclusive role as strategic and financial advisor to



on its merger with





## FT Partners' Recent Awards and Recognition

## **Bloomberg**

### **Bloomberg**

- o FT Partners' Steve McLaughlin was featured on Bloomberg / Bloomberg TV
- View the full article and watch the live TV interview



#### **M&A Advisor Awards**

- Technology Deal of the Year (2019)
- Cross Border Deal of the Year and Corporate / Strategic Deal of the Year (2018)
- Investment Banker of the Year (2017) Steve McLaughlin, CEO & Managing Partner of FT Partners
- Investment Banking Firm of the Year (2016) FT Partners



## **LendIt FinTech Industry Awards 2018:**

o FT Partners wins Top Investment Bank in FinTech

# Institutional Investor





#### The FinTech Finance 40:

Steve McLaughlin ranked #1 in 2017 and 2018





## The Information's "Silicon Valley's Most Popular Dealmakers"

- o Ranked as the #2 top Technology Investment Banker by The Information subscribers (2016)
- o Only FinTech focused investment banking firm and banker on the list

## The Largest FinTech Advisory Practice in the World

