

# **DUE DILIGENCE Blockchain Capital**

25 May 2023



# **DISCLAIMER**

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KEY RISK INDICATORS	YES/NO/NOT APPLICABLE	SCORE
Does the project have a well-defined use case or utility?	Yes	4/4
Are there any references to the company in business directories, commercial databases, official announcements or similar sources of business information for the relevant sector(s)?	Yes	5/5
Is the list of shareholders/investors publicly disclosed?	No	2.5/5
Is the corporate structure unorthodox or unduly complex?	Yes	3/6
Is there an offshore element in the corporate structure?	Yes	3/6
Are the company's financial returns available from online research?	Partially	5/7
Is the company making a loss?	No	5/7
Are the assets of the company publicly disclosed?	Yes	10/10
Have the company and its key individuals a proven track record of developing successful projects?	Yes	10/10
Have the company and its key individuals been mentioned in the media in connection with illegal business practices or in any negative or controversial context?	No	10/10
Is there any evidence that the company and its key individuals have been involved in litigation?	No	10/10
Is there any evidence that the company and its key individuals are listed on blacklists?	No	10/10
Is there any evidence that the company and its key individuals have been involved in credit or bankruptcy issues?	No	10/10
OVERALL RISK ASSESSMENT & TOTAL SCORE	LOW	87.5/100



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Blockchain Capital** is a well-established cryptocurrency and blockchain focused venture capital firm. Since its incorporation on 1 October 2014, Blockchain Capital has made a name for itself as one of the largest venture capital funds in the blockchain industry. It reportedly raised **seven funds** and currently has **USD 2 billion** in assets under management.

Blockchain Capital is known as a **pioneer** in its industry. Notably, its third fund is credited as the **first security token offering**. The fund, launched in April 2017, was the first to allow investors to purchase Blockchain Capital tokens ('BCAP'), which represented a tokenized interest in an asset, in this case a venture capital fund. The raise reportedly reached its USD 10 million funding goal within six hours after its opening. Its current portfolio is up 1,700% since its opening and with a total value of USD 180,041,678.

The operating entity for Blockchain Capital is **Blockchain Capital LLC** (USA). However, Blockchain Capital operates its funds through various separate domestic US entities and offshore entities in the Cayman Islands. The venture capital fund was **founded by two brothers**, **Bart and Brad Stephens**, who prior to founding Blockchain Capital had experience in the venture capital industry as well as video game investors. They were also joined by a third co-founder, Brock Pierce who left the company in 2017.

Along with the Stephens brothers, Blockchain Capital is led by three additional Partners, namely Spencer Bogart, Aleks Larsen and Kinjal Shah. Its management team is also supported by 25 employees and 14 external advisors with experience in the banking, investment and technology industries.

Blockchain Capital and its key individuals have an **overall positive reputation**. The media often writes positively about Blockchain Capital and its team, noting that it is a pioneering force in the industry. Similarly, BCAP holders write in public forums that they are happy with Blockchain Capital's management of the BCAP fund – but also wish the tokens were more liquid and easier to transfer. It is also worth noting that Blockchain Capital's third founder, Brock Pierce, has been accused of sexual misconduct and fraud (however, the alleged fraud occurred after his time at Blockchain Capital and the sexual misconduct lawsuits were settled and/or dismissed)).



We have not identified any litigations where Blockchain Capital and its key individuals have been named as defendants. However, we have identified two lawsuits filed by Blockchain Capital in the US. In these lawsuits, which were both ultimately settled, Blockchain Capital sued similarly named corporate entities in order to protect its name and trademark by preventing other companies in the same industry from using its name.

Blockchain Capital and its key individuals do not feature on any international sanctions or watchlists.

Based on the above elements, Athena Intelligence has assessed Blockchain Capital as an **overall low risk**.



## **PROFILE**

Blockchain Capital is an exclusively blockchain and crypto focused venture capital firm based out of the US and considers itself a pioneer in the blockchain sphere. "Blockchain Capital believes that blockchain technology holds the promise to disrupt legacy businesses, create whole new markets and business models and change the world in profound ways." The company was founded as Crypto Currency Partners in 2013 by brothers Bart and Brad Stephens. Before founding Blockchain Capital, they had prior experience within venture capital and were investors within the gaming industry.

While Blockchain Capital was reportedly founded in 2013, its operating entity, now named Blockchain Capital LLC was incorporated in Delaware, USA, on 1 October 2014. It operates its funds through various domestic and offshore partnerships, respectively in Delaware and the Cayman Islands. Blockchain Capital also had a third co-founder, Brock Pierce. However, despite the fact that previous versions of the firm's website listed Mr. Pierce as a founder, Blockchain Capital's team has claimed that he should no longer be referred to as a founder.<sup>5</sup>

The firm is comprised of 25 employees, of which 14 are investment professionals.<sup>6</sup> Blockchain Capital is led by five Partners – namely Spencer Bogart, Aleks Larsen, Kinjal Shah, Bart Stephens and Brad Stephens. The team is further supported by 14 external advisors. Blockchain Capital credits its success to the nature of its team comprised of individuals with deep experience in a relatively young industry, who know how to make rational investment decisions in an irrational market, and who are entrepreneurs and innovators themselves.

Blockchain Capital self identifies as a premiere venture capital fund and its investments are solely in the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> blockchain.capital

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> linkedin.com/in/wbradfordstephens

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> crunchbase.com/person/bart-stephens

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> modernconsensus.com/people/innovators/interview-brad-stephens-blockchain-capital bizjournals.com/sanfrancisco/news/2021/04/13/exclusive-coinbase-early-investor-blockchain-capi.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> <u>decrypt.co/6876/is-blockchain-capital-trying-to-scrub-co-founder-and-mighty-ducks-star-brock-pierce-from-its-history</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> <u>blockchain.capital/team</u>



blockchain and cryptocurrency spheres, further claiming that it is "the most established VC firm in the Blockchain sector." Blockchain Capital's portfolio and reports about the firm seem to confirm this. Further, it has been referred to as one of the largest investors in the crypto and blockchain space. Since its founding, Blockchain Capital reports to have USD 2 billion in assets under management, having invested in over 160 portfolio companies through seven different funds. Reportedly, five of them were unicorn investments. The firm currently lists investments in 88 cryptocurrency and blockchain companies.

Blockchain Capital operates each of its individual funds through separate corporate entities in the US and the Cayman Islands. Of note, whilst Blockhain reports to have raised seven funds, US online databases on companies and star-up Crunchbase only lists six funds. According to two filings with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) from March 2022, Blockchain Capital intended to raise USD 400 million in venture capital in an exempt offering through two Cayman Island entities – namely BCAP VI LP and BCAP VI QP LP – which likely corresponds to the seventh fund reported by Blockchain Capital.

Reportedly, Blockchain Capital was the inventor of the "first official security token" launched in April 2017.<sup>12</sup> According to the offering memorandum, it aimed to raise USD 10 million through the sale of 10 million BCAPs. The BCAP tokens were to be minted on the Ethereum Blockchain. Notably, while parts of the offering memorandum have been published online, the memorandum is no longer publicly available in its entirety.

The tokens were to be issued by Blockchain Capital Tokenhub Pte. Limited (Singapore) and would represent an interest in Blockchain Capital III, Digital Liquid Venture Fund LP – 'BC III DLVF' (Cayman Islands).<sup>13</sup> The tokens would be unregistered in accordance with two exemptions from US registrations

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> blockchain.capital/team

<sup>8</sup> modernconsensus.com/people/innovators/interview-brad-stephens-blockchain-capital

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> blockchain.capital/about

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> blockchain.capital/portfolio

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> crunchbase.com/organization/crypto-currency-partners/investor financials

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> securities.io/investing-in-blockchain-capital-bcap-everything-you-need-to-know

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> <u>fr.scribd.com/document/348748641/TOKENHUB-BCAP-Memorandum-Ocr</u> newsbtc.com/press-releases/blockchain-capital-releases-offering-memorandum-10-million-digital-token-offering



laws<sup>14</sup> and as a result, BCAP tokens would only be available to non-US persons outside of the US and accredited US investors. The BCAP token would also be subject to significant transfer restrictions. The exemptions further limited the number of investors participating in the raise to 99 investors. Reports state that the BCAP offering reached is USD 10 million target six hours after its opening.<sup>15</sup>

Today, the public can buy BCAP tokens, which are available on the Securitize Markets and INX Securities exchanges. Blockchain Capital holders must comply with AML and KYC requirements. It is worth noting that Blockchain Capital's website provides very limited public information about its BCAP token — which may be required in order to comply with the advertising rules attached to exempt offerings under US securities laws.

However, the website provides investors an opportunity to log in in order to obtain more information. The private BCAP holder portal reportedly allows holders to see weekly net asset value updates. As of the latest full financial statement we have identified for BC III DLVF, the fund had a net income of USD 32,650,796 and its investments had a fair value of USD 65,582,648 in 2020. At the time of the report, BC III DLVF held investments in Anchor Labs, Bison Trails, Circle Internet Financial, Coinbase, CoinCircle, Coinlist, Diem Association, Harbor Platform, Kraken, Kindred, OpenSea, Ripple, Securitize and Tari. It further reported that the fund held seven different digital assets, including Bitcoin and Ethereum.

Later reports on the fund's financials indicated that its portfolio is up 1,700% since its opening and has a net IRR of 65.5%.<sup>17</sup> This report also indicated a total portfolio value of USD 180,041,678 at the close of Q4 2022.

According to Security Token Market BCAP raised a total of USD 25 million and currently trades at USD 2.76 per BCAP with a market capitalization of USD 19,386,141. However, the website also indicates a raise start of 3 May 2021 with a price per BCAP of USD 4.82, which is not reflected in other sources. According to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Regulation D, Section 506(c) and Regulation S of the Securities Act of 1933.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> the-blockchain.com/2017/04/11/blockchain-capital-closes-ico-10-million-in-six-hours-raised-in-record-time

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/securitizemarkets.io/BCAP+15c2-11+final.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> securities.io/bcap-q4-2022

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> <u>stomarket.com/sto/blockchain-capital-bcap/trading</u>



CoinMarketCap, BCAP has a total circulating supply of 10 million tokens and is trading at a price of USD 2.68.

## **CORPORATE STRUCTURE**

Blockchain Capital is incorporated in Delaware, USA, as Blockchain Capital LLC. In addition to the main Delaware entity, we have identified four domestic entities, one entity in Singapore and eight offshore entities in the Cayman Islands related to Blockchain Capital. Further, while we have not confirmed that each of these entities are related to Blockchain Capital, we have identified eight additional domestic and nine additional offshore entities in the Cayman Islands that may be related to Blockchain Capital based on their names. However, because these additional entities were incorporated in opaque jurisdictions such as Delaware and the Cayman Islands, we were unable to confirm the connection via publicly available information.

## **USA**

#### Blockchain Capital LLC - Delaware, USA

NAME	Blockchain Capital LLC (5613656)
DATE OF INCORPORATION	01.10.2014 – Active
ADDRESS	3500 S Dupont Highway, Dover, Delaware 19901, USA
MANAGEMENT	Bart Stephens – Managing Member Brad Stephens – Managing Member
SHAREHOLDERS	N/A
MAIN ACTIVITIES	Venture Capital

Blockchain Capital LLC is Blockchain Capital's main operating entity. It was incorporated on 1 October 2014 in Delaware, USA. While the Delaware corporate register is not transparent about the management



and shareholding of entities incorporated in the state, various filings with the SEC indicate that both Bart and Brad Stephens are Managing Members of Blockchain Capital LLC.

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## Blockchain Capital Parallel IV LP - Delaware, USA

NAME	Blockchain Capital Parallel IV LP (6301943)
	Formerly: Blockchain Capital Parallel Fund IV LP
DATE OF INCORPORATION	26.09.2017 – Active
ADDRESS	3500 S Dupont Highway, Dover, Delaware 19901, USA
MANAGEMENT	Blockchain Capital LLC (USA) – General Partner
	Incorporating Services Ltd (USA) – Registered Agent
SHAREHOLDERS	N/A
MAIN ACTIVITIES	N/A

Blockchain Capital Parallel IV LP was incorporated on 26 September 2017 in Delaware, USA. While the Delaware corporate register is not transparent about the management and shareholding of entities incorporated in the state, filings with the SEC indicate that Blockchain Capital LLC is a General Partner of Blockchain Capital Parallel IV LP.

This entity appeared in a 16 October 2017 SEC Form D filing seeking to sell unregistered securities to raise venture capital funds in the amount of USD 75 million. According to subsequent filings with the SEC, Blockchain Capital Parallel IV LP raised USD 25.1 million through this issue.

## Blockchain Capital IV LP - Delaware, USA

NAME	Blockchain Capital IV LP (6301943)



DATE OF INCORPORATION	31.01.2017 – Active
ADDRESS	3500 S Dupont Highway, Dover, Delaware 19901, USA
MANAGEMENT	Incorporating Services Ltd (USA) – Registered Agent
SHAREHOLDERS	N/A
MAIN ACTIVITIES	N/A

Blockchain Capital IV LP was incorporated on 31 January 2017 in Delaware, USA. While the Delaware corporate register is not transparent about the management and shareholding of entities incorporated in the state, various filings with the SEC indicate that Blockchain Capital IV GP LLC is a General Partner of Blockchain Capital IV LP, and that both Bart and Brad Stephens are Managing Members of Blockchain Capital IV GP LLC (the SEC Forms do not indicate where Blockchain Capital IV GP LLC is incorporated).

According to a 16 October 2017 Form D filing with the SEC, Blockchain Capital IV LP sought to sell unregistered securities to raise venture capital funds in the amount of USD 75 million. According to a subsequent amendment on 22 March 2018, the issue ultimately resulted in a raise of USD 125 million from 99 investors.

## Crypto Currency Partners II LP - Delaware, USA

NAME	Crypto Currency Partners II LP (5582267)
DATE OF INCORPORATION	06.08.2014 – Active
ADDRESS	3500 S Dupont Highway, Dover, Delaware 19901, USA
MANAGEMENT	Blockchain Capital LLC (USA) — General Partner
SHAREHOLDERS	N/A
MAIN ACTIVITIES	N/A



Crypto Currency Partners II LP was incorporated on 6 August 2014 in Delaware, USA. While the Delaware corporate register is not transparent about the management and shareholding of entities incorporated in the state, a filing with the SEC indicates that Blockchain Capital LLC is a General Partner of Blockchain Capital Parallel IV LP.

This entity appeared in a 2014 SEC Form D filing seeking to sell unregistered securities to raise venture capital funds in an amount of up to USD 20 million.<sup>19</sup>

#### Crypto Currency Partners LP - Delaware, USA

NAME	Crypto Currency Partners LP (5467681)
DATE OF INCORPORATION	17.01.2014 – Active
ADDRESS	3500 S Dupont Highway, Dover, Delaware 19901, USA
MANAGEMENT	Stephens Investment Management LLC (USA) – General Partner
SHAREHOLDERS	N/A
MAIN ACTIVITIES	N/A

Crypto Currency Partners LP was incorporated on 17 January 2014 in Delaware, USA. While the Delaware corporate register is not transparent about the management and shareholding of entities incorporated in the state, a filing with the SEC indicates that Stephens Investment Management LLC was a General Partner of Blockchain Capital Parallel IV LP. Stephens Investment Management LLC is the investment company of the Stephens family.

This entity appeared in a 2014 SEC Form D filing seeking to sell unregistered securities to raise venture capital funds in the amount of USD 1.1 million.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1626791/000162679114000001/xslFormDX01/primary\_doc.xml

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1626791/000162679114000001/xslFormDX01/primary\_doc.xml



#### **FOREIGN ENTITIES**

#### Blockchain Capital Tokenhub Pte. Limited - Singapore

NAME	Blockchain Capital Tokenhub Pte. Limited (201708077E)
DATE OF INCORPORATION	23.03.2017 – Active
ADDRESS	160 Robinson Road, #24-09, Singapore 068914
MANAGEMENT	Danijel Kujundzic – Director
	Paul Gavin Parker – Director
	Jegan S/ O Selvanaiyagam – Director
SHAREHOLDERS	Argon Fintech Holdings (Cayman Islands) – 100%
MAIN ACTIVITIES	Investment and holding company

Blockchain Capital Tokenhub Pte. Limited was incorporated on 23 March 2017 in Singapore and was the entity used to issue the BCAP tokens, which represented an interest in Blockchain Capital III Digital Liquid Venture Fund LP. Blockchain Capital Tokenhub is managed by Danijel Kujundzic, Paul Gavin Parker and Jegan S/ O Selvanaiyagam. The company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Argon Fintech Holding (Cayman Islands).

## **Cayman Islands**

It should be noted that we have identified eight companies incorporated in the Cayman Islands related to Blockchain Capital. This include: BCAP VI LP, BCAP OppFund LP, Blockchain Capital III Digital Liquid Venture Fund LP, Blockchain Capital V LP and Blockchain Capital V QP LP.

# **MANAGEMENT PROFILES**

Blockchain Capital is led by a management team including Bart Stephens (Founder and Managing Partner),



Brad Stephens (Founder and Managing Partner), Spencer Bogart (General Partner), Kinjal Shah (General Partner) and Aleks Larsen (General Partner).<sup>21</sup>

They are supported by Zalia Aliriza (Chief Financial Officer and Chief Compliance Officer) and Tony Smidt (Chief Operating Officer).

Blockchain Capital's team is also supported by 14 external advisors with experience within the banking, investment and technology industries.

## **Bart Stephens (Founder and Managing Partner)**

Bart Stephens is Blockchain Capital's co-founder and has been a Managing Partner since it was founded in 2013. He also co-founded Stephens Investment Management LLC (USA) with his brother in 2002 and served as a Managing Partner until 2013. Mr. Stephens worked as Executive Vice-President of the venture capital division of Ivanhoe Capital (2001-2002), a global venture capital firm. He was also a founding investor in Oncology.com, a network of cancer related websites – which was later on was sold to Pfizer – and served as Head of Corporate and Business Development (1999-2001). Bart Stephens started his career as a Senior Product Manager at E\*TRADE Financial Corporation (1997-1999), an online brokerage platform in Palo Alto, USA. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Princeton University, USA (1997), where he studied international relations, national security and political science.

# **Brad Stephens (Founder and Managing Partner)**

Brad Stephens is Blockchain Capital's co-founder and has been a Managing Partner since it was founded in 2013. Apart from Blockchain Capital, he has served as a Board Member in numerous US entities, namely Bison Trails Co. (since 2019), a New York Based community of web3 developers; the Human Rights Foundation (since 2019), a New York based non-profit focusing on human rights in closed societies; Securitize (since 2018), a San Francisco based private equity platform; and ChangeTip (2015-2017), a company facilitating tip payments on social media and other digital platforms. Prior to Blockchain Capital,

<sup>22</sup> <u>linkedin.com/in/pbartstephens</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> blockchain.capital/team



Mr. Stephens co-founded Stephens Investment Management LLC (USA) with his brother in 2002 and served as a Managing Partner until 2013. He worked as a Senior Associate at Fidelity Investments in Boston, USA (2000-2001) where he was employed in the Fidelity Ventures division and focused on digital media and internet security; as well as Credit Suisse in New York, USA (1999-200). Brad Stephens started his career as an associate at Furman Selz (1998-1999), a US New York based asset management firm. He holds a Bachelor's degree in economics from Duke University, USA, which he received in 1998.<sup>23</sup>

## **Spencer Bogart (General Partner)**

Spencer Bogart is a General Partner at Blockchain Capital and has led the companies research efforts since 2017. <sup>24</sup> He is also a Board Member at Blocknative Corporation (since 2020), a web3 infrastructure company "bringing transparency to in-flight crypto transactions." Mr. Bogart previously served as a Board Member at Radar (2018-2021), a US Colorado based software developer which has since been acquired by Core Scientific. Before joining Blockchain Capital, he was Vice-President of Equity Research at Needham & Company (2014-2017), an investment banking and asset management firm; and worked as an Analyst for ETF.com, a platform dedicated to ETF news and intelligence, in San Francisco, USA (2011-2014). Spencer Bogart started his career as a hedge fund summer analyst at SFG Asset Advisors, a single-family investment office, in San Francisco, USA, in 2011. He holds bachelor's degree in economics from UC Santa Barbara, USA, and is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).

## **Kinjal Shah (General Partner)**

Kinjal Shah is a General Partner at Blockchain Capital where she supports its portfolio companies, conducts investment diligence and leads its research content strategy. Ms. Shah started working at Blockchain Capital as an Associate in 2018, promoted to Senior Associate in 2019 and then to Partner in 2021. She became a General Partner in 2023. Kinjal Shah is the co-founder of Komorebi DAO, an investment DAO founded in 2020. She is also a member of an angel investment group, Broadway Angels. Prior to joining Blockchain Capital, Ms. Shah was a co-lead working on blockchain verticals at the Emerging Venture

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> linkedin.com/in/wbradfordstephens

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> linkedin.com/in/spencer-bogart-cfa-bba645a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> <u>linkedin.com/in/kinjalshah15</u>



Capitalist Association, a nonprofit providing support to emerging venture capital investors (2018-2022). Her career began at Fidelity Investments (2015-2018) in Boston, USA, where she first worked as a Consulting Analyst before being promoted to Senior Consulting Analyst. Kinjal Shah holds a Bachelor's degree in quantitative economics from the Tufts University, USA.

## **Aleks Larsen (General Partner)**

Alex Larsen has been a part of the Blockchain Capital team as a General Partner since 2018.<sup>26</sup> Prior to joining Blockchain Capital, he worked as an Investment Banking Analyst at Guggenheim Partners, a global investment and advisory firm in New York, USA (2016-2018). Mr. Larsen holds a Bachelor's degree in systems engineering from the Washington University, USA (2016).

## Zalia Aliriza (Chief Financial Officer and Chief Compliance Officer)

Zalia Aliriza joined Blockchain Capital in 2017 and is currently an operating Partner, as well as Chief Financial Officer and Chief Compliance Officer.<sup>27</sup> Prior to joining Blockchain Capital, she ran the corporate health and wellness retreat business Avalon Road (2013-2017) and served as Director of Finance for Voicebox Creative, a US San Francisco based design services firm. Ms. Aliriza began her career in Hong Kong, working as a Management Accountant for Grant Ameristone (1994-1999). She then moved to San Francisco, USA, where she ran her own accounting practice for 8 years (1999-2007). Zalia Aliriza studied at the Waltham Forest College, England, where she majored in finance and economics.

# **Tony Smidt (Chief Operating Officer)**

Tony Smidt joined Blockchain Capital in 2021 and is currently an operating Partner and Chief Operating Officer.<sup>28</sup> Prior to joining Blockchain Capital, Mr. Smidt worked as: an Operations Controller at Spectrum Equity (2017-2021), a growth equity firm in San Francisco, USA; a Director at SteelBridge Consulting (2016-2017), a boutique consultancy firm in San Francisco; a Senior Manager and Regional head at FIS (2012-2015), an IT company in San Francisco; a Manager of Finance and Operations at HIG Capital (2010-2012),

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> linkedin.com/in/aleks-larsen-aa335288

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> linkedin.com/in/zalia-aliriza-8666b013

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> <u>linkedin.com/in/tony-schmidt-99b39610</u>



a global private equity investment firm in San Francisco; a Financial Officer at JP Morgan (2007-2010), a leading financial services company in New York, USA; a Senior Fund Accountant for TA associates (2006-2007), a private equity firm in Boston, USA; and a Financial analyst for Bain & Company (2004-2006), a Boston based global consultancy firm. Tony Schmidt holds a Bachelor's degree in accounting and business administration from the Northern Kentucky University, USA.

## REPUTATION

Based on our review, Blockchain Capital and its key individuals have an overall positive reputation. Blockchain Capital has been written about extensively in the media, where it has been recognized as a pioneering force in the industry and is credited as the inventor of the security token. <sup>29</sup> Media often highlight Blockchain Capital's numerous funds and investments, as well as its founders' early experience in the crypto/blockchain industry.

Commenters in online forums, such as Reddit, also write positively about Blockchain Capital, stating that they are happy with Blockchain Capital's management of the fund to increase its net asset value. <sup>30</sup> However, they also indicate they wish the company would be more transparent towards its token holders with respect to the work they are doing. Other commenters also complain that the tokens are not sufficiently liquid.<sup>31</sup>

As previously mentioned, Blockchain Capital had a third co-founder, Brock Pierce. However, since he left in 2017, Blockchain Capital has distanced itself from Mr. Pierce and alleges that he should no longer be referred to as a founder. Some reports speculate that this was done to protect Blockchain Capital's reputation following several sexual misconduct lawsuits filed against Brock Pierce (all were settled and/or dismissed) or in response to Mr. Pierce's unpredictable behavior.<sup>32</sup> However, the founders and Brock

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> securities.io/investing-in-blockchain-capital-bcap-everything-you-need-to-know

<sup>30</sup> reddit.com/r/vctoken/comments/s88pnl/anyone ever traded this reddit.com/r/vctoken/comments/tx20mi/can we get bcap on coinbase please reddit.com/r/vctoken/comments/py4uyn/bcap is now trading on securitizeio

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> reddit.com/r/vctoken/comments/cesxgp/the most illiquid turd coin of all time

 $<sup>\</sup>frac{32}{decrypt.co/6876/is\text{-}blockchain\text{-}capital\text{-}trying\text{-}to\text{-}scrub\text{-}co\text{-}founder\text{-}and\text{-}mighty\text{-}ducks\text{-}star\text{-}brock\text{-}pierce\text{-}from\text{-}its\text{-}history}$ 



Pierce reportedly parted on good terms.<sup>33</sup> Additionally, it is worth noting that in 2020, Mr. Pierce was reportedly served with a lawsuit related to his alleged involvement in a securities fraud case. However, the fraud at issue reportedly occurred between June 2017 and July 2018, which was after Brock Pierce parted ways with Blockchain Capital in April 2017.<sup>34</sup>

KEY RISK INDICATORS IDENTIFIED BY ATHENA INTELLIGENCE	YES/NO/NOT KNOWN
Does the individual and the key companies have any discernible media profile in the general or specialized press?	Yes
Has the individual been mentioned in the media in connection with, illegal business practices (money laundering, corruption, tax evasion, fraud, misappropriation of public property etc.) or in any negative or controversial context?	No

## **LITIGATION**

Athena Intelligence has conducted litigation checks on Blockchain Capital and its key individuals to determine whether they have been involved in any civil or criminal lawsuits. We have not identified any lawsuits with Blockchain Capital or its key individuals named as defendants, however we have identified two recent lawsuits filed by Blockchain Capital against third parties.

In these lawsuits, Blockchain Capital has alleged that only it can use the term Blockchain Capital within the venture capital and financial services market and has showed a willingness to litigate in order to protect its name and trademark.

In 2020, Blockchain Capital LLC sued Blockchain Capital Management LLC (USA) for trademark

 $<sup>\</sup>underline{reuters.com/article/us-bitcoin-foundation-resignations/bitcoin-foundation-hit-by-resignations-over-new-director-idUSBREA4F02B2014051\underline{6}$ 

<sup>33</sup> Ibid

 $<sup>^{34}</sup>$  <u>coindesk.com/policy/2020/09/15/brock-pierce-served-court-papers-for-fraud-lawsuit-at-his-own-presidential-campaign-rally</u>



infringement.<sup>35</sup> Blockchain Capital ultimately filed for voluntary dismissal, likely because, in response to this complaint, the owner of Blockchain Capital Management LLC indicated a willingness to dissolve his company.<sup>36</sup>

Similarly, in 2019, Blockchain Capital sued Blockchain Capital Limited (UK), claiming that its name infringed on Blockchain Capital's trademark.<sup>37</sup> The case was ultimately settled among the parties.

Notably, Blockchain Capital's trademark was registered with the US trademark office in 2019. However, following the lawsuits, Blockchain Capital filed for another trademark in order to protect its name as it appears without its logo.<sup>38</sup>

KEY RISK INDICATORS IDENTIFIED BY ATHENA INTELLIGENCE	YES/NO/NOT KNOWN
Have any of the key directors, principals or beneficial owners been involved in litigation, either as a claimant or plaintiff?	Yes

# **SANCTIONS & WATCH LISTS**

Athena Intelligence carried out a review of approximately 700 global records comprising official antimoney laundering lists, international sanctions, debarment lists and prohibitive lists. Blockchain Capital and its key individuals do not feature on these lists or sanctions.

 $<sup>{\</sup>color{blue}^{35}} \, \underline{coingeek.com/blockchain-capital-sues-florida-firm-with-similar-name}$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> The company is currently listed as inactive due to voluntary dissolution in the Florida corporate register. <a href="mailto:search.sunbiz.org/Inquiry/CorporationSearch/SearchResultDetail?inquirytype=EntityName&directionType=Initial&searchNameOrder=BLOCKCHAINCAPITALMANAGEMENT%20L170002615830&aggregateId=flal-I17000261583-3f5135a0-7335-487a-b00c-65a8deb0eca2&searchTerm=blockchain%20capital%20management&listNameOrder=BLOCKCHAINCAPITALMANAGEMENT%20L170002615830</a>

<sup>37 &</sup>lt;u>law360.com/articles/1191218/blockchain-capital-says-uk-crypto-firm-is-copying-its-name</u> <u>morrisoncohen.com/siteFiles/files/2019 08 21%20-%20Blockchain%20Capital%20trademark%20complaint.pdf</u>

<sup>38</sup> tmsearch.uspto.gov/bin/showfield?f=doc&state=4809:h5wgry.2.1 tmsearch.uspto.gov/bin/showfield?f=doc&state=4809:h5wgry.2.2

 $<sup>\</sup>frac{for bes. com/sites/jess collen/2019/08/22/how-far-can-you-push-for-trademark-rights-in-the-word-block-chain/?sh=70b7beaf47ee}{}$ 



The consulted lists include, amongst others, the Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons list ("SDN List") and all other sanctions lists administered by OFAC, all US related issued sanctions, also at state level; all UN/WorldBank/IMF Watchlists and Sanctions, all EU, Sanctions, including national states financial ministry sanctions, all LATAM and Asian continent watch lists.

KEY RISK INDICATORS IDENTIFIED BY ATHENA INTELLIGENCE	YES/NO/NOT KNOWN
Has the individual been listed in any international regulatory blacklists?	No
Have any of the key companies been listed on any international regulatory blacklists?	No



# **APPENDICES**

# Appendix 1 – Unconfirmed US entities

COMPANY NAME	DATE OF INCORPORATION	ADDRESS
Crypto Currency Partners GP II LLC	09.11.2022	The Corporation Trust Company – Corporation Trust Center, 1209 Orange
(7127250)  Blockchain Capital V GP LLC	10.09.2019	St, Wilmington, Delaware 19801, USA
(7600256)	10.09.2019	
Blockchain Capital Crypto Fund LP	06.07.2018	N/A
(6964769)  Blockchain Capital Venture Fund LP		
(6964768)		
Blockchain Capital IV GP LLC	20.03.2017	Incorporating Services Ltd - 3500 S
(6354036)		Dupont Highway, Dover, Delaware 19901, USA
Blockchain Capital China LLC	13.01.2017	
(6281193)		
Crypto Currency Partners II LLC	02.10.2014	
(5615182)		



# Appendix 2 – Unconfirmed offshore entities in the Cayman Islands

COMPANY NAME	JURISDICTION
BCAP Holdings Limited	Cayman Islands
BCAP Oppfund Feeder LP	
Blockchain Capital (Cayman) SPC	
Blockchain Capital International SPC	
Blockchain Capital IV GP LLC	
Blockchain Capital V Feeder LP	
Blockchain Capital V QP LP	
Blockchain Capital V QP Feeder LP	