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10 hot start-ups that are reshaping Asia

From fintech to autonomous driving, via retail, health, education and media, we look at companies from across Asia that are shaking up the region.

By FinanceAsia Editors
2 January 2018



The emergence of internet and mobile technology have given rise to ample new ideas and businesses capable of changing the way people live in the 21st century. From home-sharing and ride-hailing to food delivery and smart logistics, new ideas are flooding in – and there's little doubt the coming years will bring more changes.

What's more, Asia is brimming with exciting new companies. In what will be the first of similar investigations, FinanceAsia has looked under the hood of some of the region's most unique start-ups – from billion-dollar "unicorns" to early-stage companies – and selected 10 we believe have the potential to disrupt their respective industries and possibly become

the next leaders in their sectors.

We have ordered them in terms of approximate valuation from the largest to the smallest. Click on the picture for the full story. We would love to **hear you feedback** on our choices.

The top 10



Toutiao

Industry to disrupt: Media
USP: Customised news aggregation
Valuation: \$20 billion (as of August)
Investors: General Atlantic, Sequoia Capital, CCB International, Sina Weibo
Founders: Zhang Yiming
Inception: 2012, China



Sensetime

Industry to disrupt: Computer vision, artificial intelligence
USP: Deep learning platform
Valuation: \$2 billion + (as of October)
Investors: IDG Capital, Sailing Capital, CDH Investments and others
Founders: Tang Xiaoou, Xu Li, Xu Bing, Yang Fan
Inception: 2014, Hong Kong



VIPIKID

Industry to disrupt: Education
USP: Only E-learning platform in China with US teacher community, big data analysis
Valuation: \$1.5 billion (as of August)
Investors: Sinovation Ventures, Matrix Partners China, Northern Light Venture Capital, Sequoia Capital China, Tencent, and others
Founder: Cindy Mi
Inception: 2013, China



iCarbonX

Industry to disrupt: Healthcare
USP: personalised health management, artificial intelligence
Valuation: \$1 billion (as of April, 2016)
Investors: Tencent, Vcarbio, China Bridge Capital
Founder: Wang Jun
Inception: 2015, China



Zhihu

Industry to disrupt: Media
USP: Knowledge-sharing, interactive online Q&A
Valuation: \$1 billion (as of January)
Investors: Tencent, Sogou, SAIF Partners
Founder: Yuan Zhou
Inception: 2011, China



Zhuan Zhuan

Industry to disrupt: Second-hand commerce
USP: leveraging WeChat's user community, incorporated credit rating system
Valuation: \$1 billion (as of April)
Investors: 58.com, Tencent
Founder: 58.com (Huang Wei)
Inception: 2015, China



Practo

Industry to disrupt: Healthcare
USP: Doctor discovery and healthcare database
Valuation: \$650 million (as of January)
Investors: Tencent, Google, Sequoia Capital, Recruit Holdings
Founder: Shashank ND, Abhinav Lal
Inception: 2008, India



Trax Image Recognition

Industry to disrupt: Consumer
USP: Fine-grained image recognition
Valuation: \$300 million (as of June)
Investors: Warburg Pincus, Investec
Founder: Dror Feldheim
Inception: 2010, Singapore, Israel



M-Daq

Industry to disrupt: Finance
USP: Cross-border FX trading and settlement
Valuation: \$200 million (as of November 2015)
Investors: Citi Ventures, GSR Ventures
Founder: Richard Goh
Inception: 2010, Singapore



Pony.ai

Industry to disrupt: Transportation
USP: Autonomous driving expertise
Valuation: Close to \$100 million (as of March)
Investors: Sequoia Capital China, IDG Capital
Founder: Lou Tiancheng, James Peng
Inception: December 2016, China and the US



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Updated: 01.03.2018, 13:23

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