



Darin Brannan is CEO of ClearData.
ARNOLD WELLS/STAFF

Humana invests in ClearData's \$26M funding round for health care cloud computing

By Will Anderson – Managing Editor, Austin Business Journal

ClearData Networks Inc. has closed a \$26 million funding round and its new backers include Humana Inc., one of the nation's largest health insurance providers with annual revenue of more than \$50 billion, and Health Care Service Corp., which operates Blue Cross and Blue Shield insurance plans in five states.

The money will be used for product development, to expand customer support services and to continue hiring, according to a [Nov. 19 announcement](#). Austin-based ClearData helps health care companies and hospitals securely host their information technology systems in the public cloud, meaning clouds maintained by third parties such as Microsoft Azure and Amazon Web Services. That can be cheaper than trying to host their own cloud system.

The deal gives Kentucky-based Humana (NYSE: HUM) deeper insight into ClearData, and positions it as an attractive suitor in case ClearData ever looks for a buyout. The equity split isn't clear but Humana and HCSC are customers of ClearData, so they wielded some influence even before investing.

The new funding round also included existing investors Norwest Venture Partners, Merck GHIF, Excel Venture Management, Heritage Group, HLM Venture Partner and Flare Capital Partners.

Additional ClearData customers include the Cleveland Clinic, USMD Hospital at Fort Worth and Genoa Healthcare, according to the ClearData website.

ClearData was founded in 2011 and moved its headquarters from Arizona to Austin in 2016, although it still maintains an office in Scottsdale, outside Phoenix, as well as in San Francisco. The company had previously raised about \$70 million. Since 2012 ClearData has seen its core subscription service, which accounts for a majority of its revenue, grow 100 percent year-over-year, according to the announcement. Executives did not provide more specific financials.

ClearData said it will use some of the \$26 million to hire in sales and marketing. A spokeswoman said the company has 180 employees and plans to add about 60 more in the next year. ClearData's website shows 15 job openings in Austin, including for a vice president of product strategy, engineers and sales people.

"Maintaining our growth and thought leadership to serve more customers requires continuous investments in systems, tools, processes, and talent to better support our next phase of growth, and ultimately help our customers innovate and evolve faster," ClearData CEO Darin Brannan said in a statement.