

## Many SPAC Mergers Don't Perform Well. Here Are 10 That Have.

BY LUISA BELTRAN

Special-purpose acquisition companies were once a driving force of mergers, but often haven't delivered the best performance once they combined with a business. Yet some are winners, trading well in the aftermarket.

About 920 blank-check companies have gone public since Jan. 1, 2020, valued at \$256.3 billion, according to data from Dealogic. These SPACs typically have two years to find a business combination or risk having to give that money back. SPACs usually list their stocks at \$10 a share.

About half of the 920 SPACs, or 455, have de-spac'd, or found business targets and completed their mergers.

Since SPACs that trade above \$10 are seen as solid performers while those that drop below aren't, Barron's looked at how many of the de-spacs are trading above that mark.

We searched for merger transactions that were announced and completed after Jan. 1, 2020, that were valued at a minimum of \$1 billion, and listed on the Nasdaq or the New York Stock Exchange.

Our search, based on FactSet data, found the 10 de-spacs that were trading the most above \$10 as of Wednesday. This is the ranking.

Top honors so far goes Black Rifle Coffee (ticker: BRCC), a veteran-founded company that completed its merger with SilverBox Engaged Merger Corp.



A Bowlero bowling alley in Georgia, shown in April 2020. Kevin C. Cox/Getty Images

I in February. Black Rifle Coffee, a unit of Authentic Brands, was valued at \$1.7 billion with the merger. The stock closed Wednesday at \$15.75, up 4%.

Coming in second was Forge PX1 O.OO% Global Holdings (FRGE), a private exchange that closed its \$1.8 billion merger with Motive Capital Corp. in March. Forge's stock soared 46% to \$18.46 Tuesday but lost those gains Wednesday, ending at \$15.13.

Energy Vault Holdings (NRGV), which completed its combination with Novus Capital Corp. II in February, is in third place. Energy Vault soared to a high of \$21.64 in April but has given back

some of those gains. The stock ended Wednesday at \$14.89.

System1 (SST), a marketing firm, finished its merger with a Bill Foley SPAC, Trebia Acquisition Corp., in January. System1 was valued at \$1.4 billion. The stock has dropped 47% since hitting a high of \$26.81 in April. It closed Wednesday at \$14.08. FactSet ranks System1 in fourth place.

Two electric-vehicle charging companies made the list. The first is ChargePoint (CHPT), which placed fifth. It provides a network of EV charging stations in North America and Europe. The company completed its \$2.4 billion merger with

Switchback Energy Acquisition in February 2021. ChargePoint has lost about 60% since it hit a year high of \$33.14 in June, ending Wednesday at \$13.27.

In sixth place is Blue Owl Capital (OWL), the alternative asset management firm that closed its \$12.5 billion business combination with Altimar Acquisition Corp. in May 2021. The stock soared to a high of \$17.86 in November but has given back some of those gains and ended Wednesday at \$12.59.

Celularity CELU -2.23% 's (CELU) stock has more than doubled since hitting a low of \$4.14 in January. The biotech completed its \$1.7 billion merger with GX Acquisition Corp. in July. Shares closed Wednesday at \$12.14.

Wallbox (WBX) is the other EV charging company to make our list. Wallbox closed its deal with Kensington Capital Acquisition Corp. II WBX -2.17% in October. The combined company was valued at \$1.5 billion. The stock has dropped 28% since hitting a high of \$16.57 in November. Shares ended Wednesday at \$11.95, placing eighth.

The Hillman Group (HLMN) began trading in July after closing its \$2.6

## 10 De-SPAC'd Companies Trading Above \$10

Barron's searched for SPACs that have completed mergers with businesses after Jan. 1, 2020, that were valued at more than \$1 billion, and have a stock price above \$10.

Company / Ticker	Date SPAC Merger Closed	Price as of April 27
Black Rifle Coffee / BRCC	Feb. 9, 2022	\$15.75
Forge Global Holdings / FRGE	21-Mar-22	15.13
Energy Vault Holdings / NRGV	Feb. 14, 2022	14.89
System1 / SST	Jan. 27, 2022	14.08
ChargePoint Holdings / CHPT	Feb. 26, 2021	13.27
Blue Owl Capital / OWL	20-May-21	12.59
Celularity / CELU	16-Jul-21	12.14
Wallbox / WBX	Oct. 1, 2021	11.95
Hillman Solutions / HLMN	14-Jul-21	11.65
Bowlero / BOWL	Dec. 15, 2021	10.99

Source: Factset

billion merger with Landcadia Holdings III. The Hillman Group, a unit of HMAN Group Holdings, is a provider of hardware products. Since hitting a high of \$13.34 in August, the stock has dropped about 13%, closing Wednesday at \$11.65.

Bowlero (BOWL), an owner and operator of bowling centers, closed its merger with Isos Acquisition Corp in December. The stock has rebounded since it hit a year low of \$7.20 in February. It ended Wednesday at \$10.99.