# Akua Announces Strategic Investment from Itaú Ventures

Client News
November 16, 2026

Gunderson Dettmer represented Akua, an AI-powered payments infrastructure company, in its strategic investment from Itaú Ventures, the corporate venture capital arm of Itaú Unibanco.

Akua runs a cloud-native platform built for banks, fintechs, and payment processors. It handles transaction processing, fraud risk, and operational automation. As part of the investment, Itaú will explore incorporating Akua's technology to modernize its acquiring business, with Uruguay serving as the first market before the companies evaluate expansion to other countries in the region.

"The team that designs and programs every piece of our platform is based in Uruguay, and this agreement is largely thanks to them," said Akua co-founder Juan José Behrend, in a Forbes Uruguay article profiling the transaction. "Itaú partnering with technology made in Montevideo speaks volumes about the talent in the country."

The Gunderson deal team was led by Bradley Krack and included Federico Varni and Eduardo Espinosa de los Monteros Pereda.

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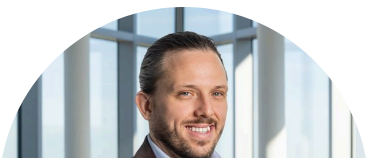

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