Databricks

First invested: August 2021
Status: Private

What does it do?

Databricks helps organisations unlock the power of their data and artificial intelligence.

Every business today generates vast amounts of information - customer records, transactions, website activity, even sensor data from machines. The challenge is making sense of it all. Databricks provides a single platform where companies can bring this information together, organise it, and use it to make better decisions.

From here, businesses can do everything from creating clear reports for managers to developing advanced AI tools that predict trends and automate tasks. For example, John Deere uses Databricks to combine sales records, satellite images and machine data - helping farmers improve crop yields and reduce waste.

Why do we invest?

We believe Databricks is at the centre of a major shift: companies moving from simply collecting data to using it intelligently. Most businesses are overwhelmed by the sheer scale and complexity of the information they generate. Databricks offers a practical way to turn this into insight.

Importantly, Databricks also helps companies stay in control of their data. Rather than locking information inside a single cloud provider, it allows businesses to work across multiple clouds with ease. This flexibility means companies can choose the best tools, manage costs, and avoid being tied to one vendor.

Artificial intelligence is often described as the next industrial revolution, creating trillions of dollars of value across the global economy. Databricks provides the tools that allow companies in every sector to participate in this transformation. By helping organisations move from being merely digital to truly intelligent - while staying in control of their data - Databricks has the potential to be one of the key enablers of the AI age.

Who is key?

Databricks was founded by a team of researchers from the University of California, Berkeley, including Ali Ghodsi, who is now CEO, and Ion Stoica, the company's Executive Chairman.

Their backgrounds in big data and artificial intelligence research gave rise to Apache Spark, one of the world's most widely used open-source data tools.

Ghodsi has since shaped Databricks with a culture that blends academic innovation, open-source collaboration, and commercial execution. The leadership team continues to attract top talent from both research and industry, building on its reputation as a pioneer at the forefront of data and AI.

Important information and risk factors

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