

Short Seller Attack Case Study

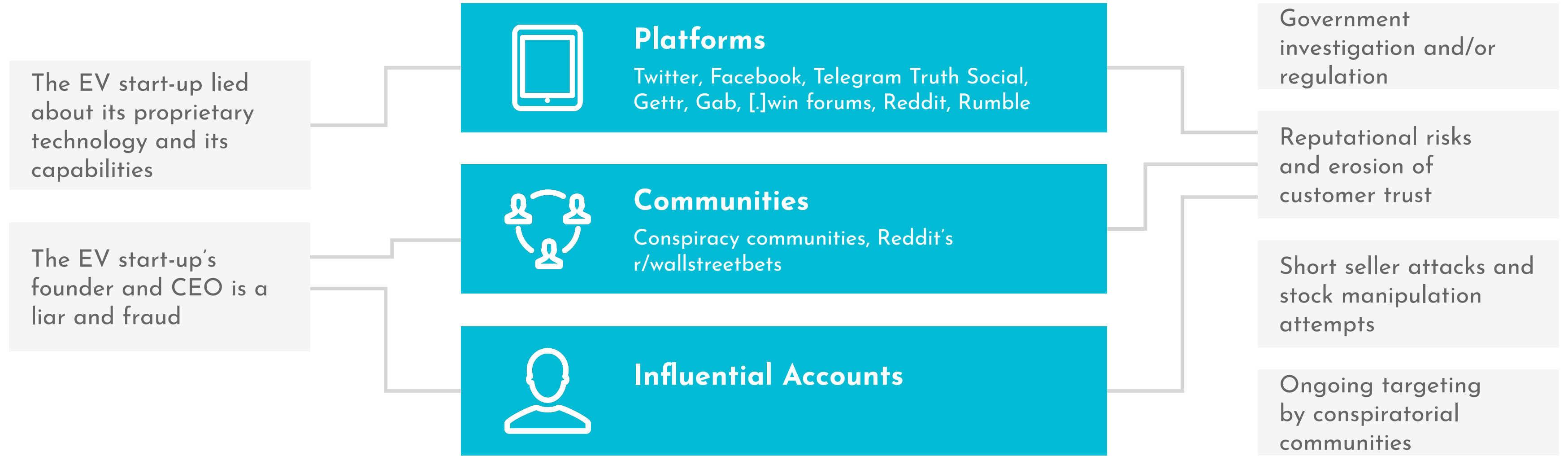


© 2023 ALETHEA | CONFIDENTIAL

SHORT SELLER ATTACK

Narrative Analysis

KEY NARRATIVES



Narrative Overview

SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

General Motors announces partnership with start-up EV truck company

INDUSTRY, MATERIALS & UTILITIES SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 / 7:56 AM / UPDATED 3 YEARS AGO

Investors cheer as GM, [REDACTED] join forces to build electric trucks

HOME > TRANSPORTATION

GM just announced it is taking a \$2 billion stake in Tesla rival

Matthew DeBord Sep 8, 2020, 8:35 AM EDT

SHORT SELLER ATTACK

Narrative Overview

SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

Hindenburg Research publishes report alleging the EV start-up is a fraud

PERSONAL FINANCE • EDITORS' PICK

[REDACTED] Versus Hindenburg Research: Who Should You Trust?

Kelly Anne Smith Forbes Advisor Staff
Advisor Contributor Group

Follow

Sep 21, 2020, 11:37am EDT

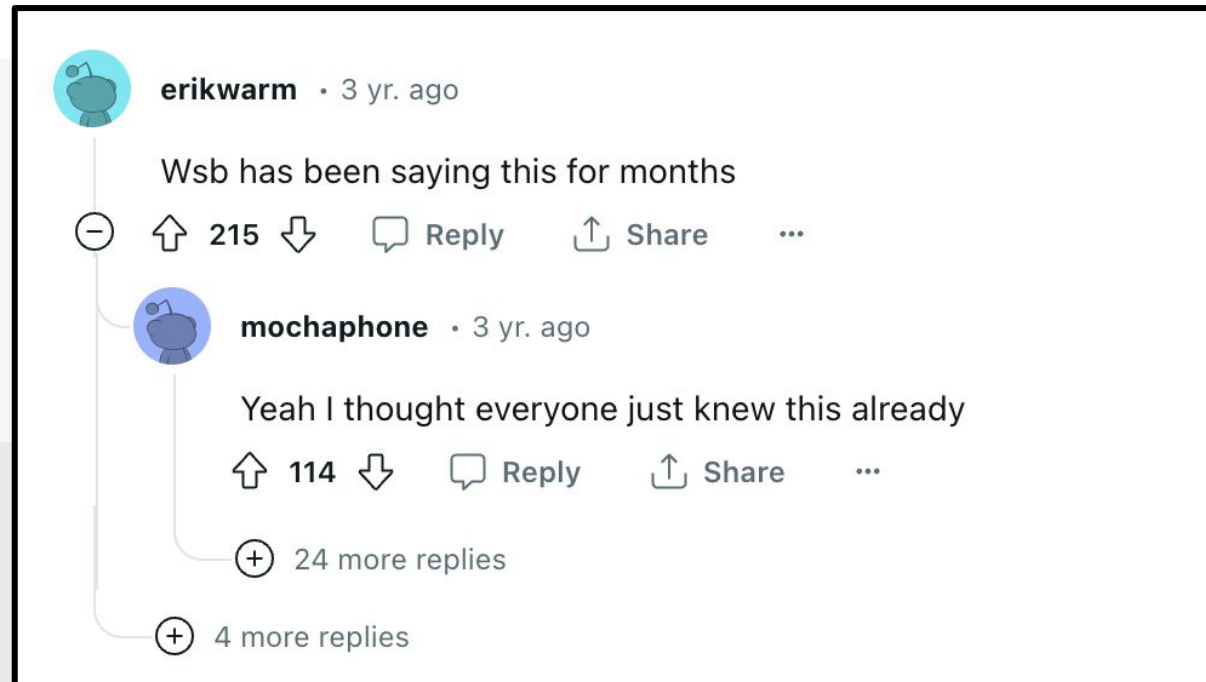
H HINDENBURG RESEARCH

[REDACTED] How to Parlay An Ocean of Lies Into a Partnership With the Largest Auto OEM in America

Published on September 10, 2020

SHORT SELLER ATTACK

Narrative Overview



erikwarm · 3 yr. ago

Wsb has been saying this for months

215 ↑ ↓ Reply Share ...

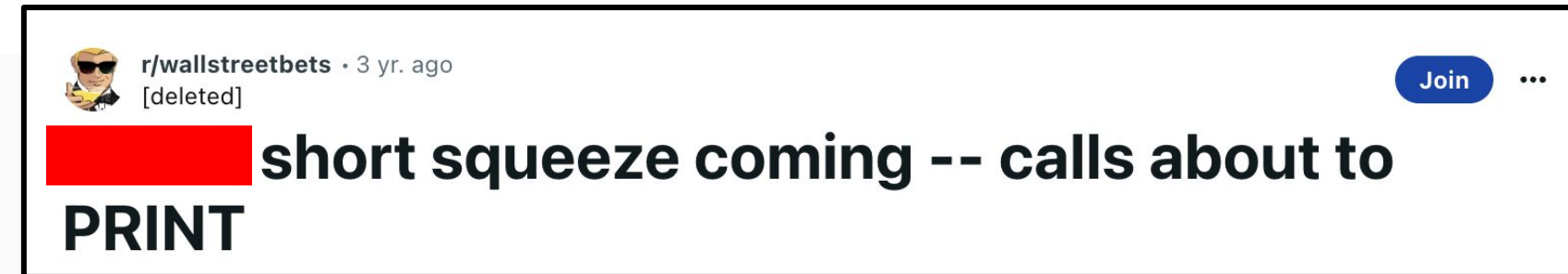
mochaphone · 3 yr. ago

Yeah I thought everyone just knew this already

114 ↑ ↓ Reply Share ...

24 more replies

4 more replies



r/wallstreetbets · 3 yr. ago

[deleted]

[redacted] short squeeze coming -- calls about to PRINT

Join ...



r/wallstreetbets · 3 yr. ago

ZEDLIEST1

FORGET PALANTIR, [redacted] SHORTS WILL PRINT

Fundamentals

Join ...

SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

Activity related to the EV start-up explodes in short seller and conspiracy communities like Reddit's r/wallstreetbets

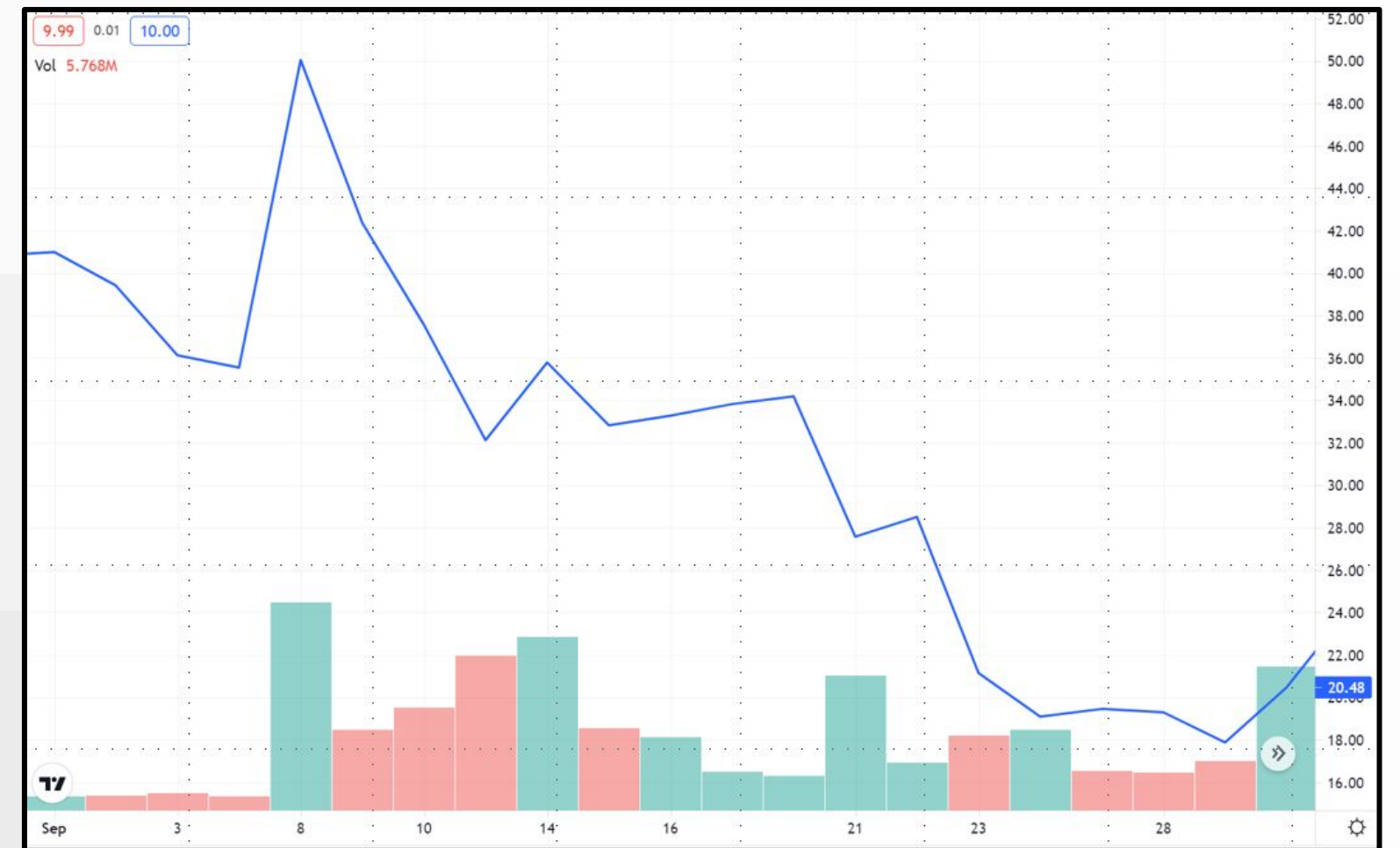
SHORT SELLER ATTACK

Narrative Overview Continued

SEPTEMBER 8-30, 2020

The EV start-up's stock price drops roughly 40% in the month following the attack

Why ██████████ Stock Dropped 10.8% This Week



Narrative Overview Continued

BUSINESS

Founder Of Zero-Emissions Truck Startup Resigns After Fraud Allegations

September 21, 2020 · 4:00 PM ET

 Camila Domonoske

SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

The EV start-up's founder resigns amid short seller and fraud scrutiny

FORBES > INNOVATION > TRANSPORTATION

EDITORS' PICK

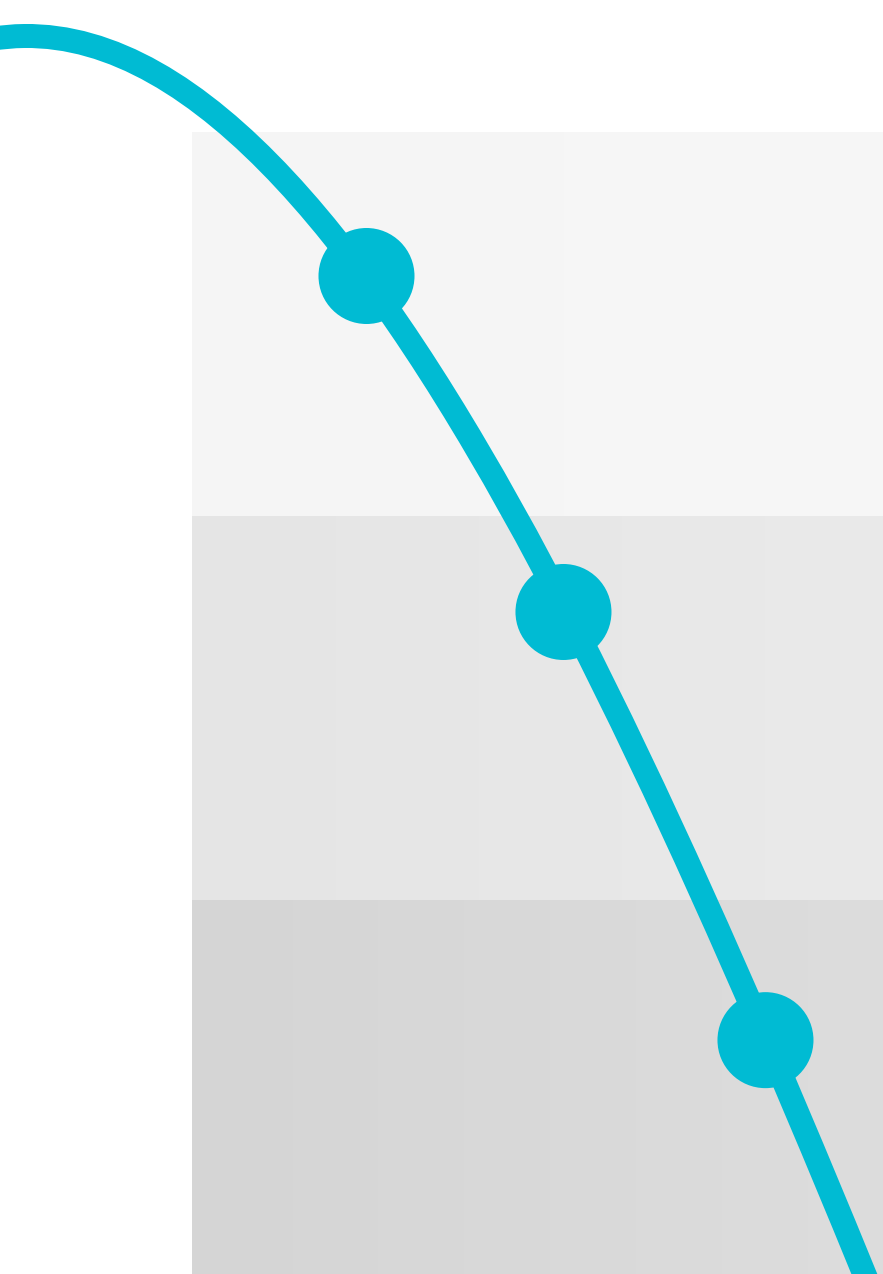
 Founder 
 Resigns After
Short-Seller's Fraud
Accusations

APAC SEPTEMBER 21, 2020 / 3:12 AM / UPDATED 3 YEARS AGO

 share slump deepens as founder resigns

SHORT SELLER ATTACK

Narrative Overview Continued



SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

The EV start-up engages Alethea for help dealing with the short seller attack

Threat Attribution and Crisis Support

Alethea attributed the short seller attack came from a competitor.

Alethea analysis revealed the short seller attack was created and promoted by a competitor of the EV start-up.

The false narratives and short seller activity was emanating and spreading on Twitter, with money for services being exchanged on Venmo.

We also uncovered a YouTube influencer who was promoting false narratives about the EV start-up, its proprietary technology and capabilities, and the Founder and CEO.

Alethea coordinated with legal teams to write a cease and desist letter to shut down the YouTube operation.

Had we been engaged sooner, Alethea could have proactively identified dangerous activity and conversations, comprehensively assessed the threat posed by the false narratives and activity, and provided the EV start-up with mitigation options before it turned into a crisis.

Short Seller Attack Case 2: Ocugen & COVAXIN



Network Characteristics

Inauthentic social media network pumps and dumps COVID-19 vaccine manufacturer

Alethea uncovered substantial evidence of inauthentic activity, including a network of more than 100 automated Twitter accounts promoting Ocugen's vaccine, COVAXIN, using hashtags including: #OCGN, #COVAXIN, and \$OCGN. This activity occurred in the lead up in the stock price peaking on November 2, 2021 and ended after the price began declining on November 4.

Accounts were coordinated by a central account, generally posted similar but not identical content, and had an estimated total following of 1.2 M and a total impression count of at least 9M. Some accounts in the network used stolen Twitter API keys from GitHub to takeover existing Twitter accounts.

The network used custom Twitter clients to enable their posting. During the period from October 22, 2021 and November 10th, 2021, 19.3k tweets were posted using the hashtag #OCGN; 78% of these tweets came from what Alethea assesses to be a coordinated network of inauthentic accounts.

With a coordinated content push on Twitter and Reddit, short sellers drove Ocugen's share price to an all-time high on November 2, 2021. Alethea's findings indicate an increase in short positions between November 2 and 4, 2021. Ocugen gained and lost 80% of its value over the course of this 12-day period.

COVAXIN

Operation Overview

OCTOBER 5, 2021

@RecvProfit account created



RecvProfit 
@RecvProfit

→How to Use the Benzinga Pro Scanner Tool

Symbol	Price	Change	Volume	Market Cap
SPY	440.00	+2.00	1.5B	\$4.5T
QQQ	380.00	+1.50	1.2B	\$1.5T
IWM	120.00	+0.50	0.8B	\$1.2T
DIA	350.00	+1.00	0.6B	\$1.0T
VTI	100.00	+0.20	0.4B	\$0.8T
VOX	80.00	+0.10	0.2B	\$0.5T
VOE	70.00	+0.10	0.2B	\$0.5T
VOF	60.00	+0.10	0.2B	\$0.5T
VOG	50.00	+0.10	0.2B	\$0.5T
VOI	40.00	+0.10	0.2B	\$0.5T
VOJ	30.00	+0.10	0.2B	\$0.5T
VOK	20.00	+0.10	0.2B	\$0.5T
VOV	10.00	+0.10	0.2B	\$0.5T
VOX	5.00	+0.10	0.2B	\$0.5T
VOY	2.00	+0.10	0.2B	\$0.5T

pro.benzinga.com
How to Use the Benzinga Pro Scanner Tool - Benzinga Pro ...
Learn how you can use the Benzinga Pro Scanner tool to find trading opportunities, use presets based on winning ...

12:18 PM · Jan 24, 2022 · Twitter Web App

124 Retweets **301 Likes**

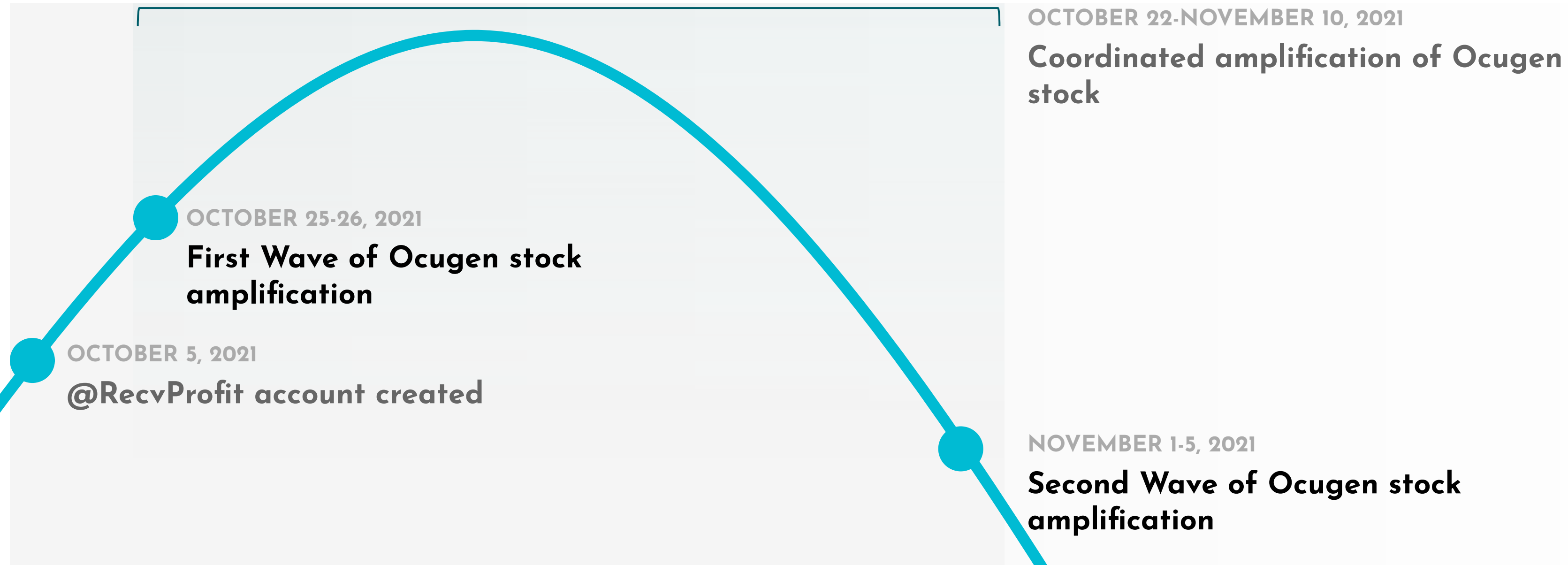
Operation Overview

OCTOBER 22-NOVEMBER 10, 2021

Coordinated amplification of Ocugen stock

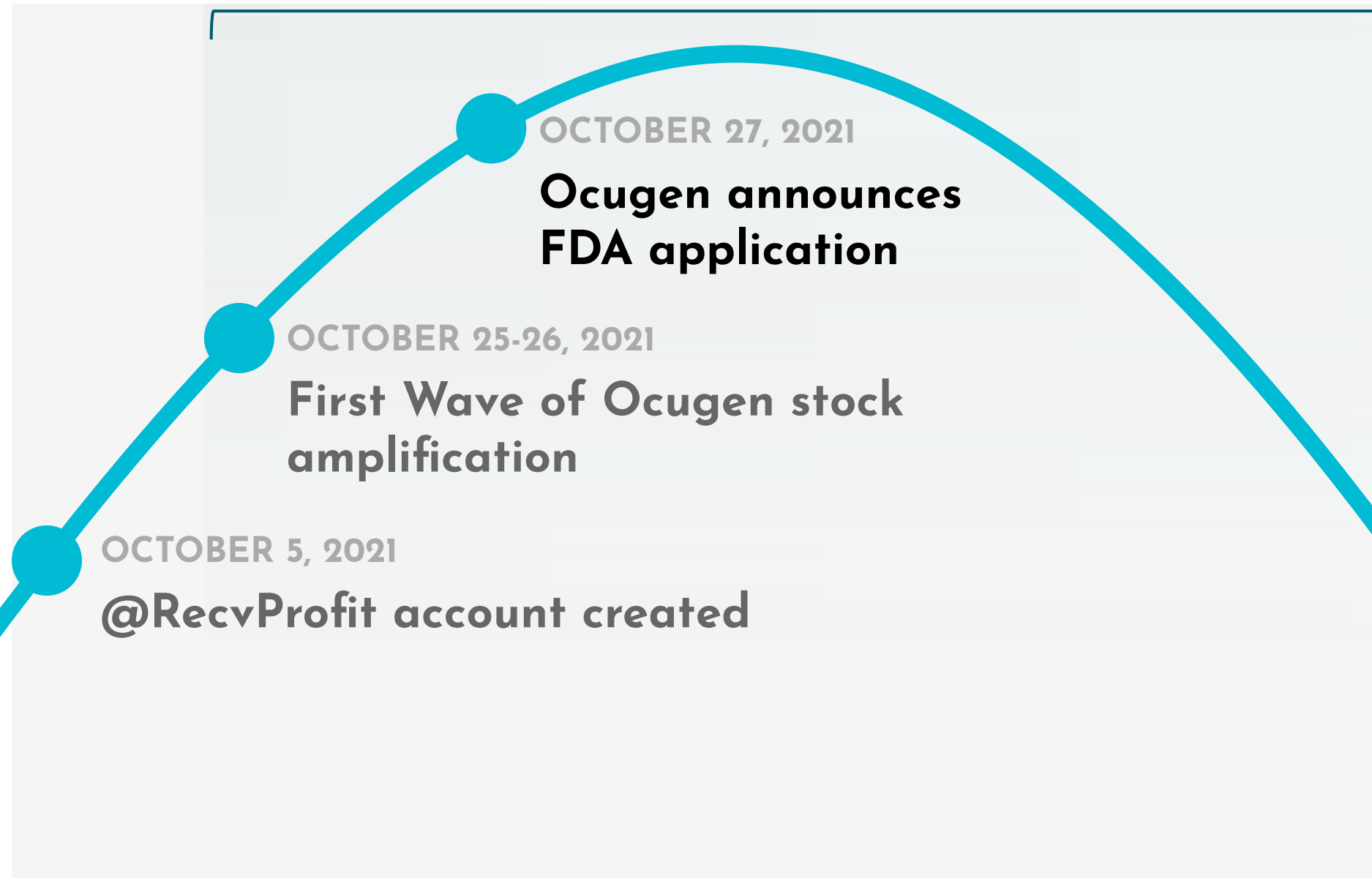


Operation Overview



COVAXIN

Operation Overview



GlobeNewswire
by notified

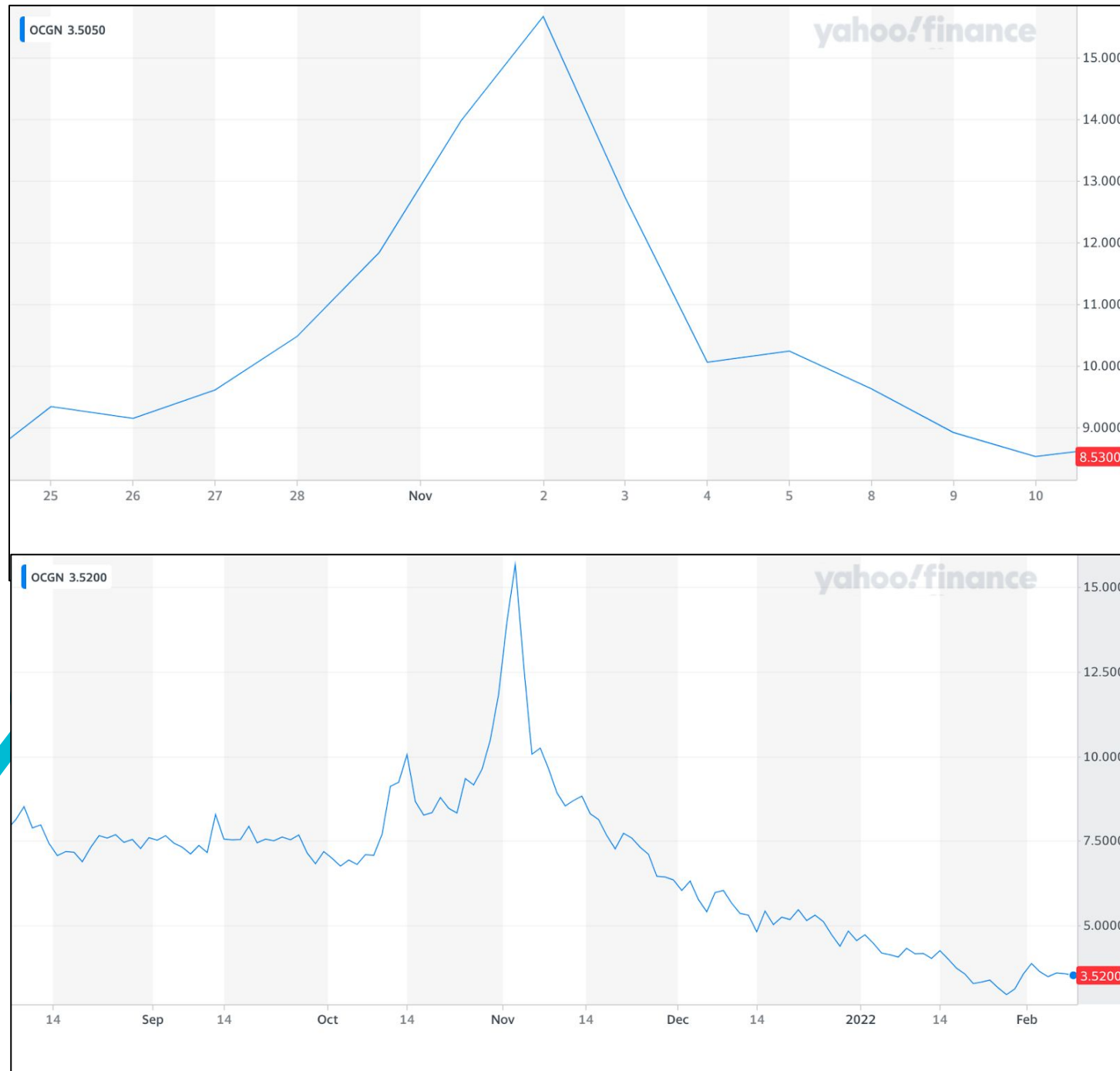
ocugen

Ocugen, Inc. Announces Submission of Investigational New Drug Application with U.S. FDA to Initiate a Phase 3 Clinical Trial Evaluating COVID-19 Vaccine Candidate COVAXIN™ (BBV152)

The Phase 3 study is designed to bridge data collected from the vaccine efficacy trial conducted in India to the U.S. population

October 27, 2021 06:35 ET | Source: [Ocugen](#)

Operation Overview



OCTOBER 22-NOVEMBER 10, 2021
Coordinated amplification of Ocugen stock

NOVEMBER 2, 2021
Ocugen's stock price reaches all time high

NOVEMBER 1-5, 2021
Second Wave of Ocugen stock amplification

Operation Overview



The screenshot shows a WHO news article titled "WHO issues emergency use listing for eighth COVID-19 vaccine". The article is dated 3 November 2021 and has a reading time of 3 minutes (722 words). It includes a language selector with options for العربية, 中文, Français, Русский, and Español. The main text states: "Today, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued an emergency use listing (EUL) for COVAXIN® (developed by Bharat Biotech), adding to a growing portfolio of vaccines validated by WHO for the prevention of COVID-19 caused by SARS-CoV-2. WHO's EUL procedure assesses the quality, safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines and is a prerequisite for COVAX vaccine supply. It also allows countries to expedite their own regulatory approval to import and administer COVID-19 vaccines."

