

# Taming the Unicorn: Startups, Moonshots and Corporate Governance

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## Panel description

Unicorns have provided some of the wildest rides of the past decade. “Rocket fuel” VC funding, “hero” founders, public and private valuations seemingly decoupled from convention, high-vote founder shares and voting agreements, a forward-leaning lingo of “disruption”, “space race”, “massively scalable” and “paradigm shift”: all have been the hallmarks of a wave whose time has come and, perhaps, is moving into a new phase. This has been accompanied by some of the most notable governance trends and events of the cycle, many of them centred on the question of the proper balance between founder autonomy and board and shareholder oversight.

*This panel will explore some of these themes, including some predictions of how they may continue to evolve going forward.*

# The Unicorn Panel

## Panellists



**Rita Sobral**  
Senior Associate, M&A  
*Cooley*



**Lucina Berger**  
Partner, Corporate and M&A  
*Hengeller Mueller*



**Peter Grandelius**  
Head of Corporate Legal  
*Spotify*

## Panel co-chairs



**Adam Green**  
Partner, M&A  
*Mannheimer Swartling*



**Forrest Alogna**  
Partner, M&A and Capital Markets  
*Darros Villey Maillot Brochier*

# The Unicorn Topics

- Governance and the “genius founder” during the private and public company phases
- Maturation of a startup
- Professional management
- When things hits the fan
- “Rocket fuel”, “hyper-scaling” and governance challenges
- “Startup” M&A and governance