

The IPO market often provides lots of juicy investment opportunities, especially in hot areas like software and biotechnology.

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So what companies should you be looking out for?
Here's a sneak preview.

Airbnb has raised \$4 billion from investors, including series F funding.

It now has 3 million listings and operates in nearly all nations on Earth.

It also became profitable in 2016 and is expected to show a profit this year as well. It certainly sounds like a company that's quite ready to have an IPO.

In an interview with Fortune in October, CEO Brian Chesky said the company "would be ready as absolutely soon as we can." On the other hand, he said, people who expect the short-term rental company to go public in 2018 might be disappointed.

"The vast majority of people are saying that you should take your time and do whatever you need to do on your timeline," he explained, adding that some companies have had a tough time once they got out in the markets. "It's a defining thing," he said.

Valuation: \$31 billion.

Many observers have been expecting Dropbox to go public this year.

It's certainly given many signals that an IPO was in the works, raising a \$600 million line of credit from several large investment banks (getting cash without giving up equity is a good sign).



Dropbox CEO Drew Houston told Bloomberg earlier this year that the company had positive EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization--a measure of day-to-day profitability for heavily indebted companies).

Dropbox has 500 million registered users worldwide, and 200,000 business customers (that is, people who actually pay for the service).

It recently launched a \$19.99 per month "Professional" level of service which some interpreted as a measure to beef up revenues in preparation for an IPO. This one could happen any day now.

Valuation: \$10 billion