Application Process and Sponsorship Opportunities Open for 28TH Annual Michigan Growth Capital Symposium

Midwest Companies Vie for 30 Open Slots be Profiled at Midwest’s Premier Equity Event in May 2009

Ann Arbor, Mich. – Jan. 21, 2009 – The Michigan Growth Capital Symposium (MGCS) today announced the call for presenting companies at its 28th annual Midwest equity event which will be held May 12-13, 2009 at the Marriott Resort in Ypsilanti, Mich. The MGCS is the premier networking event for leaders in the venture capital investment world to connect with the entrepreneurs, startups and emerging growth companies that are actively searching for partners and funding. In addition to accepting applications for presenting companies, MGCS is also enlisting new sponsors for its 2009 event. Initial sponsors include leading media, venture capital and economic development organizations.

The recent economic downturn will certainly play an important role in discussions at MGCS 2009. However, according to David J. Brophy, MGCS Founder and Director and Professor of Finance at the University of Michigan Ross School of Business, despite a scarcity of federal funding flowing to national research institutions, technology continues to grow and deals are still being done. “With fewer technology opportunities on the market, the quality of opportunities is likely to escalate, resulting in more competition and potentially increased valuation of some investments.”

As a result, this year’s Michigan Growth Capital Symposium will revolve around the following themes: increasing quality, acute specifics about end-market targets, and tougher searches for willing investors.

Fueling economic development and growth, MGCS has served as a catalyst to raise the visibility of venture investment and entrepreneurial success in Michigan and the Midwest region. The 2009 event will feature a carefully screened group of companies representing industries ranging from information technology, life sciences and alternative energy. Midwest companies interested in participating in MGCS can submit applications and vie for 30 open positions to be profiled at this high impact event.

Not only does MGCS provide a unique opportunity for networking, many MGCS presenting companies go on to identify funding sources through connections made at the Symposium. In fact, five presenting companies received funding through the 2008 MGCS.

“In spite of the challenging economic environment opportunities abound for other unique startups to take root in Michigan and the Midwest,” said LeAnn Auer, executive director of the Michigan Venture Capital Association. “The Symposium attracts investors from outside of Michigan and
provides highlights of all that goes on here in Michigan’s entrepreneurial community. It also gives them access to our local deal flow and some of the technology companies that we’re seeing as up-and-coming.”

Call for Presenting Company Applications
The early deadline for presenting company applications is Tues., Feb 26; final deadline for application submissions is Tues., March 10. To submit an application, please visit: www.MichiganGCS.com.

Call for Sponsors
Initial 2009 sponsors include Ann Arbor Spark, Arboretum Ventures, BioStar Ventures, Cendrowski Corporate Advisors, Crains, Dykema, Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Michigan Venture Capital Association, Miller Canfield, New Enterprise Forum and RPM Ventures. Sponsorships range from $1,000-$10,000.

For more information on MGCS or to become a sponsor of the 28th Annual symposium, please visit www.michigangcs.com.

About the Michigan Growth Capital Symposium (MGCS)
MGCS is the original university-based venture fair, which was first held in 1979. This nationally attended two-day event provides an opportunity for financiers to connect with up-and-coming Midwest businesses and learn about emerging technologies. The Symposium offers the opportunity to build relationships with an unparalleled business network of distinguished private equity industry leaders, leading university research faculty, and entrepreneurial business professionals. Entering its 28th year, MGCS continues to draw top investors from coast to coast. MGCS is hosted by the Stephen M. Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan and its Center for Venture Capital and Private Equity Finance of the Samuel Zell & Robert H. Lurie Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies.

###