Plans Unveiled for 2009 Michigan Growth Capital Symposium

Continuing to Foster Innovation and Investment, Midwest’s Premier Equity Event to be Held May 12-13, 2009

Ann Arbor, Mich. – Dec. 17, 2008 – The Michigan Growth Capital Symposium (MGCS) today unveiled preliminary details for its 28th annual Midwest equity event. 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. The event, which fuels economic development and growth, will be held May 12-13, 2009 at the Marriott Resort in Ypsilanti, Mich.

Against the backdrop of a challenging economic climate, which has significantly impacted the state of Michigan, MGCS serves as an important catalyst for innovation, networking and financing. First held in 1979, the Symposium is the longest running program of its kind, and brings together investors from across the country with Midwestern entrepreneurs and related stakeholders for two days of company presentations, world class panel discussions and networking.

MGCS has served as a champion of entrepreneurial investment opportunities in the region. By bringing together entrepreneurs, universities and venture capitalists, MGCS has paved the way for growth industries such as technology, life sciences, advanced manufacturing and alternative energy which are catalyzing economic development in the region.

“As the automotive industry continues to struggle, there has never been a more important time for Michigan to develop economic diversification,” said Symposium Founder and Director David J. Brophy, Professor of Finance at the University of Michigan Ross School of Business. “MGCS has been nurturing the startup and tech spin-off communities for decades, and is poised to continue its leadership in bringing investors to growing companies. In fact, we are seeing an increase in the total number of young companies formed around fundamental technologies in the life science areas, information technology, and other related fields.”

Commenting on today’s economic challenges and the venture funding landscape, Mary Campbell, Chairman of the Michigan Venture Capital Association, Managing Director of EDF Ventures and long-time MGCS supporter said, “Great deals seem to get funded in any environment. Venture firms and entrepreneurs will do well to keep their current networks close and expand them selectively and with a targeted approach. It’s a perfect environment for a highly successful MGCS.”
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 27th 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.

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