Michigan Growth Capital Symposium to Highlight the Lifecycle of Investment Trends in Emerging Growth Industries

Alan G. Walton of Oxford Bioscience Partners and Kenneth R. Pelowski of Pinnacle Ventures to Keynote Midwest’s Premier Equity Event

Ann Arbor, Mich. – May 5, 2008 – With the Midwest’s premier equity event rapidly approaching, Michigan Growth Capital Symposium (MGCS) organizers today announced the line-up of featured keynote presenters and panel discussion topics which will explore regional, national and global investment and entrepreneurial trends. MGCS is the premier networking event for venture capital investment leaders to connect with emerging growth companies that are actively searching for funding and partners. The event will be held May 14-15, 2008 at the Marriott Resort in Ypsilanti, Mich.

Alan G. Walton, Ph.D., D.Sc., senior general partner, Oxford Bioscience Partners, and Kenneth R. Pelowski, founder and managing partner of Pinnacle Ventures, will headline the two-day seminar with presentations that underscore the region’s momentum in key growth markets – information technology, life sciences and alternative energy.

Throughout his distinguished career, Walton has pioneered advancements in biotechnology as a scientific researcher, university professor, Presidential science advisor, biotech company founder and venture capital investor. With this 360-degree perspective of the biotechnology industry, Walton will discuss how far it has come, where it is today and the virtually limitless potential of biotechnology in the future.

Silicon Valley-based VC Ken Pelowski has scaled the wall of success through his leadership prowess at Fortune 500 companies, his savvy investment strategies at top-of-the-chart venture firms and his deal-making finesse at new enterprises spanning high-tech to health care. With his eye on emerging trends across the board, he will discuss what he sees as opportunities for growth in Michigan and the Midwest.

In addition to early stage and emerging growth company presentations, MGCS features dynamic panel discussions with leading investors from across the country.

Panel Discussions include:

- Institutional Investing: Venture Capital Investment
- Strategies for Emerging Technologies and Opportunities
- Investment in Life Science Companies: Who’s Getting There and Why?
- Creating a Cleantech Cluster in Michigan and the Midwest
The Outlook for U.S. Venture Capital
An Acquirers View of Venture Backed Companies
Preparing Your Company for its Initial Venture Financing

One of the longest running programs of its kind, this year’s MGCS is expected to bring together 450 attendees, connecting emerging growth businesses with investors. Registered regional and coastal leaders from the investment community, include:

Amherst Fund LLC  Globespan Capital Partners
Alsling Capital    Grand Angels
Apjohn Ventures    Heron Capital
Applied Ventures   Hopewell Ventures
Arboretum Ventures InterWest Partners
Ardesta LLC        Meakem Becker Venture Capital
Azimuth Capital Management LLC  Midwest Venture Partners
Bank of Ann Arbor  Nth Power
BC Ventures        NorthCoast Technology Investors LP
Beringea, LLC      OCA Ventures
Blue Chip Venture Company  Ohio Capital Fund
Boston Financial and Equity Group  Open Prairie Ventures
Bridge Street Capital Partners  Oracle Capital Partners
City Capital Advisors LLC  Plymouth Venture Partners
Chrysalis Ventures LLC  River Cities Capital Funds
CMEA Ventures       RiverVest Venture Partners
Credit Suisse      RPM Ventures
DTE Energy Ventures  Seneca Partners
Detroit Community Fund  Silicon Valley Bank
Dow Venture Capital  State of Michigan Retirement System
Early Stage Partners  StarVest Partners
EDF Ventures       StepStone LLC
Essex Woodlands Health Ventures  TGap Ventures
Flagship Ventures   Triathlon Medical Ventures
Gitega Capital     Venture Investors LLC

Thursday, May 8: Last Chance to receive $100 Registration. To register and for more information on MGCS 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.