Momentum Mounts for 2008 Michigan Growth Capital Symposium

Sponsor Lineup Unveiled and Presenting Company Evaluation Process Begins for Midwest’s Premier Equity Event

Ann Arbor, Mich. – March 19, 2008 – With less than two months until opening day, sponsor and presenting company momentum continues for the Michigan Growth Capital Symposium (MGCS), the annual Midwest equity event which will be held May 14-15, 2008 at the Marriott Resort at Eagle Crest in Ypsilanti, Mich. 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.

MGCS organizers and a committee composed of qualified venture capitalists have begun a careful evaluation process to select 30 companies from more than 50 applications. Selected companies will be contacted on April 3 and the entire lineup will be publically unveiled at the event on May 14.

On the sponsorship front, MGCS has continued to attract regional and national partners including venture capital, economic development, private equity and professional services firms that value the networking, business development and marketing opportunities present at this leading growth capital event. The 2008 lineup includes longtime MGCS partners and new sponsoring organizations including:

- Amherst Fund, LLC
- Ann Arbor Spark
- Apjohn Ventures
- Arboretum Ventures
- Automation Alley
- Bank of Ann Arbor
- Beringea
- Bodman Attorneys & Counselors
- Chrysalis Ventures
- CMEA Ventures
- Crain’s Detroit Business
- Credit Suisse
- Delphi
- Dickinson Wright
- Dow
- DTE Energy
- Dykema
- EDF Ventures
- Essex Woodlands Health Ventures
- Honigman
- Michigan Economic Development Corporation
- Michigan Venture Capital Association
- Miller Canfield
- Pepper Hamilton LLP
- The Ohio Capital Fund
- Young Basile
- Venture Investors LLC
Reflecting MGCS’ influence as a central vehicle for business development and strategic initiatives, this year the Michigan Venture Capital Association (MVCA) and the Michigan Economic Development Corp. have formed partnerships with MGCS creating a natural and vital link between the industry’s premier networking event and the largest representatives of capital funds in the state. The enhanced relationships with these two organizations will not only help to expand the resources of the MGCS, but to enrich the MVCA and Michigan Economic Development Corp.’s participation through a renewed declaration of commitment to the event.

In addition, companies such as DTE Energy and Credit Suisse have become sponsors of MGCS acknowledging that the event presents a strategic and compelling platform at which to promote new business initiatives in the Midwest in industries such as alternative energy and healthcare. As Michigan continues to nurture its startup industry and nationwide reputation as a leader in life sciences, advanced manufacturing, homeland security, and biotechnology, one key aspect of its success is participation in the marketing of Midwest investment as a whole.

Paul Cohn, vice president and regional director of the Ohio Capital Fund, a $150-million fund-of-funds that invests in Ohio early-stage companies and a supporting sponsor of MGCS, says a strong Midwest region will serve as an attraction unto itself. “We strongly believe that the Midwest is a great place to found companies, and to invest in companies. The Ohio Capital Fund sees MGCS as a means to build relationships with venture capital firms from outside Ohio that may consider expanding their investment focus to other states in the region,” said Cohn.

Doug Camitta, partner at law firm Pepper Hamilton, LLP, a longtime sponsor of MGCS, sees value in the foundations it has laid and partnerships it has created at MGCS. “The firm has sponsored MGCS almost since its beginning,” said Camitta. “We have encouraged development-stage companies that we represent that are looking for money to participate. We’ve also encouraged clients and other venture firms who we deal with to send people.”

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.