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ADVANTAGE
CAPITAL
PARTNERS

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Welcome

Welcome to Advantage Capital Partners' electronic newsletter for March. We think you and other opinion leaders in business, finance, government, economic development and higher education will find this month's news about Advantage investments and our innovative portfolio companies to be informative.

News about Advantage Investments

Financing from Advantage Capital helps bring new hotel to Columbia, Mo.

Advantage Capital has invested \$14 million in Stadium Lodging LLC, a St. Louis-based hotel management company bringing a new Hampton Inn and Suites hotel to Columbia, Mo. The hotel project will include demolition of the Campus Inn, which was built in 1973, and construction of a four-story, 133-room Hampton Inn and Suites. The new hotel is scheduled to open in spring 2008.

The Hampton Inn and Suites hotel will be the only hotel within easy walking distance of two major hospitals and the University of Missouri campus. The new hotel will feature an upscale lobby, conference center facilities, a large indoor pool, an exercise facility, a business center and a casual "sports-themed" restaurant. "This project will significantly upgrade the amenities available to people visiting the university, attending sporting events or accompanying loved ones at the nearby medical centers, and increase the number of jobs at this site," said Louis T. Dubuque, an Advantage principal.

Advantage Capital's investment in Stadium Lodging was made with private capital raised through the U.S. Treasury's New Markets Tax Credits (NMTC) program, which encourages investment in qualified neighborhoods and communities. Read more about Stadium Lodging [here](#).

Advantage Capital invests in Washington, D.C., bank startup

Advantage Capital Partners recently invested \$500,000 in NuAmerica Bank, a proposed community bank that seeks to provide banking services to small businesses and professionals in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Advantage Capital is the first institution to invest in NuAmerica's initial fundraising round, which aims to secure \$20 million in capital this year.

NuAmerica Bank will target its services to small and medium-sized business customers, with an

emphasis on those owned by Hispanics and other minority groups. Scheduled to open in the second quarter of 2007, the bank's headquarters and first branch will be located in one of the District's fastest growing neighborhoods, where small, minority-owned businesses are highly represented. "NuAmerica is building a unique position in the commercial lending market and has assembled an experienced management team with strong ties to local businesses, government agencies and community organizations," said Doug Beekman, senior vice president at Advantage Capital.

Advantage Capital's investment in NuAmerica Bank was made in connection with the Washington, D.C., Certified Capital Companies program. Read more [here](#).

Washington, D.C., energy management products company GridPoint featured in *The Wall Street Journal*

[GridPoint](#), a leading manufacturer of renewable energy products, was highlighted in a recent *Wall Street Journal* article. The March 14 story discussed the recent surge in venture capital investments in companies such as GridPoint that improve reliability and efficiency of the U.S. power-distribution grid.

Headlined "Power-Grid Firms Gain Backers," the article cited GridPoint's approach of combining smart-metering capabilities with a demand-response technology and a means of integrating distributed power-generation technologies. Steve Hauser, GridPoint's vice president of strategy, was quoted in the article as saying, "The smart-grid space is just getting ready to take off."

The article also mentioned Advantage Capital as one of GridPoint's investors. Advantage Capital first invested in GridPoint last year, also in connection with the Washington, D.C., Certified Capital Companies program.

GridApp Systems provides increased database functionality with new Clarity 3.5

[GridApp Systems Inc.](#), a New York-based provider of database automation software and solutions, recently introduced GridApp Clarity™ 3.5, which provides enterprise IT customers with a deeper level of functionality and customization to reduce errors and bring consistency to database processes. "Regardless of your platform, Clarity 3.5 dramatically improves database reliability and promotes collaboration to deliver cost-efficiency in an area of IT commonly overlooked by most CIOs," said Matthew Zito, chief scientist at GridApp Systems.

Clarity's latest release was covered in leading technology publications including *eWeek* and *InfoWorld*. According to *eWeek*, "Enhanced patch management allows Clarity 3.5 to quickly auto-detect unpatched database servers and reduces the time to apply each patch. It also enables patch policy creation and user-defined patch deployments to improve security across the entire database infrastructure." For more on the announcement, go [here](#).

Advantage Capital first invested in GridApp systems in 2004 in connection with New York's Certified Capital Companies program.

St. Louis-based Stereotaxis raises additional private capital

[Stereotaxis](#), a leading producer of a advanced cardiology instrument control system, recently raised approximately \$20 million in new private capital through commitments from certain investors to purchase 1.9 million newly issued shares of its common stock. Read more about the offering, which closed March 19, [here](#).

Advantage Capital was an early investor in Stereotaxis, investing in 1998 when the company had a handful of employees and no revenues. Since then, the company has developed its technology, raised \$125 million in private equity, conducted two public stock offerings in 2004 and 2005 raising more than \$100 million more in private capital, and grown to have more than 125 employees in St. Louis alone.

Madison's Alfalight wins Army contract for fiber laser pump modules

[Alfalight Inc.](#) was recently awarded a research and development contract worth \$1.7 million from the Army Research Laboratory (ARL) in Adelphi, Md. This 12-month program will enable Madison-based Alfalight to develop high-power fiber-coupled pump modules especially suitable for pumping high power fiber laser systems developed in conjunction with ARL. The objective of the contract is to develop very high power pump blocks, suitable for use in building compact and efficient high-power fiber lasers. Read more about the Army contract [here](#).

Advantage Capital first invested in Alfalight in 2005 through Wisconsin's Certified Capital Companies program. The company is a leading manufacturer of highly efficient and reliable high-power diode lasers for industrial, defense, and telecommunications markets worldwide.

About Us

[Advantage Capital Partners](#) is a venture capital and private equity firm focused on investing in promising companies located in areas underserved by traditional venture capital. With offices and partners in New Orleans, St. Louis and several other cities, Advantage Capital has raised more than \$750 million in institutional venture capital since 1992.



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