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Ticker Tape Update:

To date, Advantage Capital has partnered with its portfolio companies to help create more than **14,168 jobs** nationwide

Advantage Capital News

Advantage Capital Partners invests \$7 million in Kansas City gourmet snack manufacturer; Missouri New Markets funding lures Sunflower Food & Spice Co. from Kansas to Missouri

Advantage Capital Partners has provided \$7 million in financing to [Sunflower Food & Spice Company, Ltd.](#), the makers of sunflower seed and quality gourmet snacks. The funding enabled the company to move its headquarters from Kansas to Missouri and will also be used to support continued growth. In a financing partnership with Enterprise Bank, Advantage Capital provided funding in connection with the Missouri New Markets program and the federal New Markets Tax Credit program. To read more, go [here](#).

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Oil and gas heavy metal manufacturing company grows with Louisiana New Markets program; Advantage Capital Partners invests \$7.5 million in SMI Companies, Inc.

Advantage Capital and its small business lending unit BizCapital provided \$7.5 million in financing to [SMI Companies, Inc.](#), a fully integrated provider of heavy metal manufacturing and turnkey product solutions for oil, gas and energy services businesses in Louisiana and nationwide. The financing, made possible through the federal and Louisiana New Markets Development programs, will allow the company to grow its operations at its Franklin, La. facility. The company also operates facilities in Berwick and Bastrop. To continue reading, go [here](#).

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Portfolio Company News

Florida CAPCO investment Pasteuria Bioscience receives EPA registration for Nematode Control

[Pasteuria Bioscience](#) announced that it has received registration from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for *Pasteuria usgae*. This is a critical step toward the commercial use of *Pasteuria spp.*, a natural bacteria prevalent in soil that has long been recognized as promising biological control agents for plant-parasitic nematodes. To continue reading, go [here](#).

Advantage Capital made its initial investment in the Florida-based biotech company in 2003 through Florida's Certified Capital Company program.

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Advantage Capital portfolio company GridPoint releases

and our investments have resulted in more than **\$6 billion** in follow-on capital.

new enterprise class software; Company named exclusive smart grid software provider for Hometown Connections

[GridPoint, Inc.](#), a leading smart grid company, announced the release of GridPoint Platform 3.0, a standards-based open platform that provides utilities with an intelligent network to manage and control distributed energy resources. GridPoint Platform 3.0 enables utilities to offer consumers online energy programs; delivers advanced demand response programs based on consumer preferences, grid status, real-time market prices and analytics; and expands the variety of home area network devices it controls. Additionally, the platform now provides utilities with an easy, cost-effective path to extend smart grid capabilities to residences equipped with AMR meters. To continue reading, go [here](#).

In other GridPoint news, Hometown Connections, a utility services subsidiary of the American Public Power Association (APPA), and GridPoint, Inc., a leading smart grid company, recently announced at the APPA National Conference that GridPoint has been selected by Hometown Connections as its exclusive smart grid software platform provider. The marketing agreement enables APPA utility members to purchase GridPoint's software platform with favorable commercial terms and deliver innovative energy savings programs to public power customers. To read more, go [here](#).

Since the company's inception in November 2003, GridPoint has raised more than \$200 million in equity capital. Advantage was an early investor in GridPoint, having invested in the company in 2005.

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Virent Energy Systems, a Wisconsin CAPCO investment, earns EPA Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award

[Virent Energy Systems, Inc.](#) has earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award. Virent's Bioforming process, a game-changing technology that economically transforms plant sugars into green gasoline, is the first to be honored for the clean manufacturing of liquid transportation fuels from biomass in the award's 14-year history. To continue reading, go [here](#).

Advantage Capital Partners invested in the hydrocarbon biofuels company in 2005 with funds raised in connection with the Wisconsin Certified Capital Company program.

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Advantage People



Crichton Brown serves on VC panel at the 8th Annual Rice Alliance Life Science Venture Forum in Houston

Advantage Capital managing director Crichton Brown served as a panel member at the 8th Annual Rice Alliance Life Science Venture Forum earlier this month. The Rice Alliance announced the most promising Life Science companies at the forum on June 11th. Companies showcased their new ventures for an audience of more than 400 attendees, including investors, venture capitalists, industry representatives, business leaders, advisors/mentors, service providers and entrepreneurs. To read more, go [here](#).

The Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship (Rice Alliance) is Rice University's flagship initiative devoted to the support of technology commercialization, entrepreneurship education, and the launch of technology companies. Since inception, the Rice Alliance has assisted in the launch of more than 230 start-ups which have raised more than \$500 million in early-stage capital. More than 700 companies have presented at the 100 plus events hosted by the Rice Alliance.

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About Us

About Advantage Capital Partners

[Advantage Capital Partners](#) is a venture capital and small business finance firm focused on investing in promising companies located in areas underserved by traditional venture capital. With offices and partners in New Orleans, St. Louis, Austin, Washington, D.C., and other U.S. cities, Advantage Capital has raised more than \$1 billion in capital since 1992.

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About the Certified Capital Company program

Advantage Capital Partners is a leading participant in the [Certified Capital Company \(CAPCO\) program](#), a state economic development tool designed to strengthen state economies by stimulating the flow of investment capital to local small businesses, creating high-paying jobs and increasing state tax revenues. Under a CAPCO program, insurance companies are encouraged to invest in certified capital companies; the state allows the insurance companies to claim tax credits for qualified investments in CAPCO funds. Taken over time, the tax credits generate large pools of private venture capital to be invested in the state. CAPCOs leverage the funds received from insurance companies to invest in qualified small businesses.

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About the federal New Markets Tax Credit program

The [federal New Markets Tax Credit program](#), administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, encourages private-sector investment in economically distressed communities through tax incentives. In a highly competitive allocation procedure, the Treasury Department awards the tax credits based on applications submitted for each tax year. Advantage Capital has participated in the New Markets program since 2003, raising private capital for investment in low-income communities. These investments have spurred economic growth through innovative business ventures and job creation across the United States.

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About the Louisiana New Markets Development program

The Louisiana New Markets Development program encourages investment in promising small businesses located in distressed communities throughout the state and particularly those communities in the GO Zone still recovering from the devastation of the hurricanes of 2005. The program enables up to \$400 million in Louisiana's small businesses. The state program attracts investment in low-income communities through a state tax credit modeled after the federal New Markets Tax Credit.

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About the Missouri New Markets Development program

Enacted in 2007 and expanded in 2009, the Missouri New Markets Development program encourages investment in promising small businesses located in distressed communities throughout the state. The program enables up to \$311 million of capital investment in Missouri's small businesses. The goal of the program is to attract large, long-term investors to Missouri's low-income communities, promoting new expansion, creating new job opportunities and building on the existing growth in the state.

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