

Inside Advantage

In This Issue:

Advantage Capital News

[Advantage Capital funds SOMS Technologies in New York](#)

[Advantage Capital leads \\$3.6 million funding round for Niagara Dispensing Technologies](#)

Portfolio Company News

[GridPoint](#)

[Kionix](#)

[Virent Energy Systems](#)

[SensorTran](#)

About Us

[Advantage Capital Partners](#)

[Certified Capital Company program](#)

[Federal New Markets Tax Credit program](#)

Ticker Tape Update:

To date, Advantage Capital has partnered with its portfolio companies to help create more than **12,070 jobs nationwide** and our investments have resulted in more than **\$5.3 billion in follow-on capital.**

Advantage Capital News

Advantage Capital funds SOMS Technologies, Inc.; cleantech oil filter manufacturer plans to add 20 new jobs

[SOMS Technologies, Inc.](#), the Valhalla, New York-based manufacturer of the microGreen™ oil filter, has received venture capital financing from Advantage Capital. The funding will be used to fuel the company's continued growth, bringing an additional 20 jobs to the region.

The microGreen oil filter replaces a conventional oil filter assembly without requiring any modifications to the engine or filter housing. By continuously filtering a small portion of the engine oil through the patented, secondary microfilter system, the microGreen filtration system allows a vehicle to operate up to 30,000 miles without changing the engine oil. The microGreen system reduces oil use by 70 percent and reduces filter use by 50 percent, providing end users with economic and environmental value.

"The microGreen oil filter revolutionizes the oil change process," said Scott Murphy, Advantage Capital managing director. "The microGreen filter is one of those unique 'green' products that helps the environment and saves money."

Advantage Capital's investment in SOMS Technologies was made in connection with New York's Certified Capital Company program. To read more on this investment, go [here](#).

[back to top](#)

Advantage Capital leads \$3.6 million funding round for Niagara Dispensing Technologies, Inc.; company receives funding through New York CAPCO program

[Niagara Dispensing Technologies, Inc.](#), a highly-automated carbonated beverage dispensing company located in Western New York, has raised \$3.6 million from Advantage Capital, Rand Capital and The Erie County Industrial Development Agency.

Founded in 2006, Niagara Dispensing Technologies (NDT) designs and manufactures high-speed draft beer dispense systems for high volume applications. The company's EXACTAP™ and EXACTPOUR™ systems are designed for all applications, including those that mount to existing bars, new installations at stadiums, and portable dispense systems. NDT's systems eliminate waste, speed up lines and allow for perfect product presentation.

"Niagara Dispensing Technologies offers an innovative product backed by technology that has been tested and proven," said Scott Murphy, Advantage Capital managing director. "This investment will help NDT continue its growth and will contribute to the greater Buffalo economy with the addition of 25 new jobs."

Advantage Capital's portion of the investment was raised in connection with New York's Certified Capital Company program. To read more about the NDT investment, go [here](#).

[back to top](#)

Portfolio Company News

GridPoint announces \$120 million financing and acquires Seattle's V2Green

[GridPoint, Inc.](#) recently announced that it has raised \$120 million in equity financing and has acquired V2Green, a smart grid technology that enables "smart charging" and vehicle-to-grid (V2G) services.

"V2Green is a leading innovator in plug-in electric vehicle management and has been instrumental in defining standards for interfacing electric vehicles with the power grid," said Peter L. Corsell, president and CEO, GridPoint. "V2Green's best-in-breed software for electric vehicle management enhances our software platform and its corresponding benefits to utilities."

In other news, Corsell was recently recognized by *Technology Review* magazine as one of the world's top innovators under the age of 35 for developing a practical solution to advance the development of a Smart Grid. Honored among more than 300 nominees, the TR35 is an elite group of accomplished young individuals who exemplify the spirit of innovation. Corsell and the other TR35 winners were featured in the September issue of *Technology Review* magazine and honored at EmTecho8 Conference, which was held at the end of this month.

GridPoint is a leading cleantech company whose smart grid platform benefits electric utilities, consumers and the environment. The company is the pioneer of the smart grid platform that empowers utilities to optimize electrical grid management, achieve business objectives, increase grid reliability, promote environmental stewardship and fuel the adoption of renewable energy sources.

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. To read more on GridPoint, go [here](#).

[back to top](#)

Advantage portfolio company Kionix receives 2008 Frost & Sullivan award for product line strategy

[Kionix, Inc.](#), a global leader in the design and fabrication of high-performance, silicon-micromachined microelectromechanical systems (MEMS) inertial sensors, has recently received a 2008 Frost & Sullivan award for its KXSC7 accelerometer release, an extension of its product line that addresses today's requirements for a smaller form factor.

"A small form factor has become a critical competitive requirement as electronic devices, such as personal digital assistants (PDAs) and mobile phones, continue to shrink in size," explains Frost & Sullivan Industry Analyst V. Sankara Narayanan. "By saving board space, small form factor MEMS accelerometers free up valuable room for integrating more functions, and this acts as a new driver for MEMS accelerometers."

In other news about Kionix, the recently announced Tony Hawk Motion for Nintendo DS utilizes an accelerometer-based Motion Pack from Kionix. The game, expected to be available later this year, will allow players to tilt and turn through skateboarding sessions.

Advantage Capital first invested in Kionix in 2003 in connection with New York's Certified Capital Company program. To read more on Kionix, go [here](#).

[back to top](#)

Wisconsin CAPCO investment Virent Energy Systems awarded \$1 million for renewable energy project;

cleantech company featured in *The Wall Street Journal*

[Virent Energy Systems](#), a hydrocarbon biofuels company, was recently awarded a \$500,000 grant and a \$500,000 loan to design, build and operate a pilot production plant capable of producing up to 10,000 gallons of bio-gasoline per year. The funding was announced by Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle, as \$7.3 million in financial aid is being awarded to Wisconsin firms to help finance research, development and commercialization of new renewable energy technologies.

The funding comes from the Wisconsin Energy Independence Fund and requires matching funds of at least 50 percent of total project costs. The awards will leverage \$44.2 million in investments, and create new jobs in agriculture, forestry, research and manufacturing.

In addition, Virent was recently featured in a *Wall Street Journal* article that describes how oil companies are starting to create internal venture capital funds to invest in new energy technologies. This new trend has sparked interest from Shell, an oil company that is funding a large portion of Virent's product development.

Advantage invested in Virent Energy Systems in 2005 with funds raised in connection with the Wisconsin Certified Capital Company program. For more on Virent, go [here](#).

[back to top](#)

SensorTran, a Texas CAPCO investment, announces availability of new "Gemini" DTS product line

[SensorTran](#), a developer of the world's most advanced distributed temperature sensing (DTS) technology, has announced the availability of its new family of DTS systems. The new Gemini product line is the first to offer the unique level of flexibility to address both new and experienced DTS users.

Gemini's modular platform offers inexperienced users clear and easily understood configuration choices and yet allows "super users" access to highly customized performance solutions that have never been available before. Customers in the rapidly growing power cable monitoring segment will significantly benefit from simplified installation and operation as well as reduced maintenance and service costs.

"We have been working to develop these technologies over several years and it is great to see them coming together in the Gemini platform. We are excited to offer our customers a new level of performance and flexibility which allows them to deploy highly customized solutions at a low cost," said Mikko Jaaskelainen, SensorTran CTO.

Advantage Capital invested in SensorTran in 2007 with funds raised in connection with the federal New Markets Tax Credit program and the Texas Certified Capital Company program. For more on SensorTran, go [here](#).

[back to top](#)

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.

[back to top](#)

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.

[back to top](#)

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 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 throughout the United States.

[back to top](#)

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