

ADVANTAGE CAPITAL PARTNERS

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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

Entrepreneur magazine names Advantage Capital Partners a top VC firm for third consecutive year

Entrepreneur magazine has recognized Advantage Capital among the nation's top 100 venture capital firms for the third year in a row. Advantage Capital tied for first place with Goldman, Sachs & Co., among venture capital firms funding later stage companies. Advantage Capital also ranked highly among firms for venture investments in early stage companies.

"This is the third consecutive year that we've been named to *Entrepreneur's* top VC firms list and we are delighted to repeat this feat," said Steven T. Stull, president of Advantage Capital. "Advantage Capital continues to foster the success of entrepreneurs who will grow their businesses and in turn create good jobs that help their communities thrive."

Entrepreneur noted that venture capitalists invested nearly \$30 billion in 3,813 deals in 2007, making it the highest investment total since 2001. Published in the August issue of *Entrepreneur*, the firm ranking is based on information from PricewaterhouseCoopers and the National Venture Capital Association's "MoneyTree Report." To see the full VC list, go [here](#).

In 2007, Advantage Capital provided funding to a total of 52 companies from a wide range of industry sectors. To read more on Advantage Capital's top VC list ranking, go [here](#).

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Advantage Capital finances expansion of Lift for Life Academy; state and federal New Markets programs support campus growth for charter school

[Lift for Life Academy](#), a charter school located in St. Louis' Soulard neighborhood, has received \$3 million in financing from Advantage Capital. The Academy plans to use the financing to expand over the next few years and offer high school level education, starting with the addition of ninth grade in 2008.

"Through innovative leadership and a solid commitment to education, the Academy has grown and evolved from a one-room classroom to a major educational force in the city today," said Mark Lewis, principal at Advantage Capital. "This investment will allow students who thrive in the Academy middle school to continue their studies through their high school years in an environment committed to their growth and learning."

Established in 1988, Lift for Life began as a weightlifting gym and later grew to include free after-school care for children ages 8 to 18. In 2000, the organization opened an Academy, becoming the first independent charter middle school in the city of St. Louis. Today the Academy holds a student body of 350 and the school is free and open to all St. Louis students in grades six through nine.

Advantage Capital partnered with Southwest Bank on the financing, made in connection with the federal New Markets Tax Credit program and the Missouri New Markets Development program. To read more on this investment, go [here](#).

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Natural Cleaners Colorado LLC receives \$1.9 million investment from Advantage Capital; Colorado CAPCO program spurs job growth in rural communities

Natural Cleaners Colorado LLC, a dry cleaning business utilizing environmentally friendly cleaning processes, has secured \$1.9 million in financing from Advantage Capital. The funding, raised in connection with Colorado's Certified Capital Company program, will be used to form two new natural cleaning operations in Grand Junction and Steamboat, with possible future expansion to other locations throughout the state.

"The conversion of the dry cleaning industry to non-toxic cleaning methods is an important effort and Natural Cleaners is at the forefront of the 'green' initiative in these rural Colorado neighborhoods," said Phil Thomas, senior vice president at Advantage Capital. "In addition to the positive environmental aspects of this deal, the funding will also help support nearly 30 new and existing jobs."

Natural Cleaners began operations in 2005 in Avon, Colo. The company uses various pollution free dry and wet cleaning processes, including state-of-the-art CO2 and GreenEarth cleaning technologies to ensure high quality service at a competitive price. To read more about this investment, go [here](#).

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Portfolio Company News

Able Planet's clear harmony headphones named to *TIME* Magazine's "25 Gotta Have Travel Gadgets" list

[Able Planet](#), a company founded on the principle of hearing preservation, was recently named to *TIME* Magazine's "25 Gotta Have Travel Gadgets" list, for its Clear Harmony noise-canceling headphones. To view the write-up in *TIME*, go [here](#).

Able Planet's award-winning headphones use Linx Audio technology, which was originally developed for use in a new generation of top-of-the-line hearing aids. It also delivers the perception of loudness without forcing users to crank up the volume to potentially damaging levels.

Able Planet embeds Linx Audio into audio and communication devices to enhance sound quality and speech clarity for All Levels of Hearing™. The company's products include headphones, headsets, hearing aids and assistive listening devices. Advantage Capital invested in Able Planet in 2005, in connection with Colorado's Certified Capital Company program. To read more about Able Planet, go [here](#).

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Broadpoint extends partnership with AT&T; telecom company signs multi-million dollar contract to broaden wireless capabilities in Gulf

[Broadpoint](#), a full-service telecommunications and network solutions company, has signed a long-term contract to extend AT&T's wireless voice and data capabilities further into the Gulf of Mexico. The current contract is the latest in a long-standing relationship between the two companies. In the next few years, it will allow AT&T to expand its mobile enterprise customer base via Broadpoint's cellular communication system.

"We are very proud of our history of providing quality, reliable service to AT&T," said Errol Olivier, president and CEO of Broadpoint. "This agreement represents the largest contract signed in the history of Broadpoint."

Broadpoint was formed in May 2007 through a combination of PetroCom, SOLA Communications and Coastel Communications. Advantage Capital first invested in PetroCom in 1995 in connection with Louisiana's Certified Capital Company program. To read more on Broadpoint, go [here](#).

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AuthenTec wins 2008 Product of the Year Award from the National Society of Professional Engineers

[AuthenTec's](#) small form factor AES1510 fingerprint sensor has been named a Product of the Year from the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE). The AES1510 won the NSPE award in the medium company category and is one of several small form factor sensors that AuthenTec offers for the PC and wireless markets. Since the introduction of its first small form factor sensor in 2005, the company now has sold over 10 million such devices.

The NSPE New Product Award program recognizes the benefits that come from the research and engineering of new products, such as added employment, economic development, strengthening of the nation's competitive position internationally, and contribution to the public's standard of living.

Advantage made its first investment in AuthenTec in 1999 through Florida's Certified Capital Company program. The company recently completed a successful Initial Public Offering in June 2007. For more on AuthenTec, go [here](#).

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Advantage People

Scott Murphy receives *The Post-Star* "20 under 40" award



Advantage Capital's Scott Murphy was recently honored as one of *The Post-Star's* "20 under 40" award recipients. Murphy is a managing director at Advantage Capital in Glens Falls, New York.

The awards program objective is to recognize young professionals under the age of 40 who show a dedication and success in their vocation; act as a role model in their career; demonstrate leadership in their business and community; and are active in community and volunteer participation. The winners will be honored at a luncheon to be held on September 26th at The Fort William Henry Resort and

Conference Center.

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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 \$950 million in institutional venture 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 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.

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About the Missouri New Markets Development program

Enacted in 2007, the Missouri New Markets Development program encourages investment in promising small businesses located in distressed communities throughout the state. The program enables up to \$186 million of capital investment in Missouri's small businesses. The state program attracts investment in low-income communities through a state tax credit that piggybacks on the federal New Markets Tax Credit. 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 existing growth in the state.

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