

ADVANTAGE CAPITAL PARTNERS

February/March 2010

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Ticker Tape Update:

To date, Advantage Capital has partnered with its portfolio companies to help create more than 15,000 jobs nationwide and our investments have resulted in more than \$6 billion in follow-on capital.

Advantage Capital News

Advantage Capital features new video on website; short film highlights firm's commitment to fostering entrepreneurs and investing in low-income communities

Advantage Capital Partners' Advisory Board members are featured in a new video talking about their experience with the firm's commitment to small business owners and the challenges that emerging entrepreneurs in underserved communities face. The video can be viewed [here](#).

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Portfolio Company News

Stereotaxis system procedure featured on NBC's TODAY Show

NBC's TODAY Show recently featured Dr. Mauricio Arruda, a leading electro-physiologist and Director of the University Hospitals Heart & Vascular Institute in Cleveland, Ohio, performing a live cardiac ablation procedure using a [Stereotaxis](#) system during its broadcast. The patient was a 69 year old woman who suffered from a severe cardiac arrhythmia. The procedure was completed successfully. The Stereotaxis system allows a physician to control the tip of the catheter by using magnetic fields, thereby providing reduced radiation exposure, a low major adverse event rate and clinical results which mimic the best hands in the world. The TODAY Show segment is available to view [here](#).

St. Louis-based Stereotaxis (NASDAQ: STXS) designs, manufactures and sells medical equipment to treat heart disease. Advantage Capital was an early investor in Stereotaxis, investing in connection with the federal New Markets Tax Credit program and the Missouri Certified Capital Company program.

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Advantage Capital portfolio company TurboSquid featured in Anderson Cooper 360 story on CNN

[TurboSquid, Inc.](#), the largest online marketplace for 3D models and an Advantage Capital portfolio company, was recently showcased on an Anderson Cooper 360 news story on CNN. The segment features GNO Inc., TurboSquid, the I.P. Building, and the revitalization of the

Greater New Orleans region in its first installation of a series on how some communities are successfully weathering the recession. To view the clip on CNN, go [here](#).

Advantage Capital first invested in TurboSquid in 2001 in connection with Louisiana's Certified Capital Company program. Most recently, the firm made an additional investment in TurboSquid with funds raised in connection with the federal New Markets Tax Credit program and the Louisiana New Markets Development program.

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GridPoint completes acquisition of Standard Renewable Energy

[GridPoint, Inc.](#), an established leader in smart energy solutions, announced at the end of February that it has completed its acquisition of Standard Renewable Energy, a leading provider of energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions. The move advances GridPoint's commitment to transforming the production, distribution and consumption of energy to create a more efficient and clean power system. To read more about the acquisition, go [here](#).

In other GridPoint news, the company recently announced that Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE), a subsidiary of Constellation Energy (NYSE: CEG), has launched a multiyear plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) demonstration project using GridPoint's smart charging software. With electric vehicles becoming commercially available later this year, BGE is eager to explore real-world charging scenarios, gaining relevant experience to inform their strategic planning and help shape smart charging options for the future. To read more, go [here](#).

Since the company's inception in November 2003, GridPoint has raised more than \$220 million in equity capital. Advantage Capital was an early investor in GridPoint in 2005.

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Virent and Shell start world's first biogasoline production plant

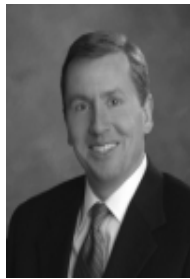
Advantage Capital portfolio company [Virent Energy Systems, Inc.](#) and Shell have announced the successful start of production at the world's first demonstration plant converting plant sugars into gasoline and gasoline blend components, rather than ethanol. The demonstration plant, located at Virent's facilities in Madison, Wisconsin, is the latest step in a joint biogasoline research and development effort, announced by both companies in March 2008. The demonstration plant has the capacity to produce up to 10,000 gallons per year, which will be used for engine and fleet testing. To continue reading, go [here](#).

Virent's [BioForming process](#) is a leading technology for the production of fungible advanced biofuels, including renewable biogasoline, diesel, and jet fuel. Advantage Capital invested in Virent in 2005 with funds raised in connection with the Wisconsin Certified Capital Company program.

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Advantage People

Scott Zajac named Business Person of the Year by the Clayton Chamber of Commerce



Advantage Capital senior managing director Scott Zajac has been named "Business Person of the Year" by the [Clayton Chamber of Commerce](#). Zajac accepted the award at a ceremony and dinner at the St. Louis Ritz-Carlton. Acknowledging the current economic climate, Zajac pointed to Advantage Capital's continued commitment to small business growth in his remarks. "We are making a difference in the region and around the country," said Zajac. "Despite very challenging times, we are filling a desperately needed void by providing access to capital for small businesses that may not otherwise have had the ability to raise that capital." Click [here](#) to continue reading.

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Advantage Capital co-sponsors CDVCA annual conference; firm executives tapped for expertise

In late March, Advantage Capital co-sponsored the [Community Development Venture Capital Alliance](#) (CDVCA) annual conference in New Orleans. Senior managing director Scott Zajac and senior vice president Les Alexander served as speakers at the conference, participating on panels that addressed cleantech investing, structuring venture capital investments, adding value to companies and exiting investments.

CDVCA is the network for the rapidly growing field of community development venture capital (CDVC) investing. CDVC funds provide equity capital to businesses in underinvested markets, seeking market-rate financial returns, as well as the creation of good jobs, wealth, and entrepreneurial capacity. CDVCA promotes use of the tools of venture capital to advance the livelihoods of low-income people and the economies of distressed communities.

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About Us

About Advantage Capital Partners

[Advantage Capital Partners](#) is a leading small business finance firm focused on providing growth capital and other investments supporting state and local economic development efforts. The firm's typical forms of investment include early stage, expansion equity, mezzanine financing, senior and subordinated loans and government-guaranteed lending. With offices and partners in New Orleans, St. Louis, Chicago and other U.S. cities, Advantage Capital has raised more than \$1.3 billion in institutional capital since 1992 and invested in companies located in geographic areas underserved by traditional capital.

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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 has awarded tax credits based on applications submitted for each of the last seven years. 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 throughout the United States.

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About the state New Markets Development program

In addition to the federal New Markets Tax Credit program, Advantage Capital also participates in a number of state-level New Markets programs, which attract investment in low-income communities through a state tax credit modeled after the federal program. The tax credits are only available to highly qualified investors who have been accredited under the federal program. The goal of these initiatives is to attract large, long-term investors to a state's low-income communities, promoting new expansion, creating new job opportunities and building on existing growth in the state. To date, the following states have passed a state-level New Markets Development program: Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, Illinois and Florida.

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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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