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**Welcome**

Welcome to Advantage Capital Partners' electronic newsletter for May. We think you and other decision-makers in business, finance, government, economic development and higher education will find these topics informative.

**News About Advantage Investments**

**Energy management product producer GridPoint raises \$16 million**

GridPoint, Inc., of Washington, D.C., has closed a \$16 million Series B round of financing from Advantage Capital and other institutional investors, along with a distinguished group of private investors, including former U.S. Sen. Bill Bradley and technology expert Esther Dyson. Funds will be used to support sales and marketing efforts and broaden the company's product offerings. Altira Group led the financing round, with Contango Capital Management also participating.

GridPoint's intelligent energy management (IEM) products provide reliable backup power, integrate renewable energy sources, and manage energy efficiency for homes and businesses. Advantage invested in GridPoint in connection with the Washington, D.C., certified capital companies program.

"GridPoint is meeting a real need in terms of demand management and alleviating a pain point for consumers," said Jim Newell, an Altira partner who has joined GridPoint's board. To learn more about GridPoint's financing, go [here](#).

**Colorado's Anark launches latest version of Gameface**

[Anark Corp.](#), an interactive 3D game developer based in Boulder, has released a new version of Anark Gameface, the next-generation User Interface (UI) development platform. The new edition, Anark Gameface 3.6, features software and performance enhancements that should increase the capabilities of game developers and UI designers.

"The Anark Gameface 3.6 release was driven directly by the feedback that we received from

our customers," Anark's Justin Ebert said. "Our customer base has highly diverse needs that come as a result of the numerous development tools and methodologies that are available to game designers."

Anark received its first funding from Advantage in 2003, in connection with Colorado's certified capital companies program. Read more about Anark Gameface 3.6 [here](#).

#### **Texas' Quickoffice introduces new version of Premier software**

Quickoffice, a Dallas-based company providing mobile office document software for smartphones, has created a new version of its Quickoffice Premier application.

Quickoffice Premier v3.6, which will be preloaded on the new UIQ 3-based Sony Ericsson P990 and M600 phones, will enhance document handling and functionality and provide extensive personalization possibilities. The original edition - which allows Quickoffice Premier end-users to access, view, edit or save the original, desktop Microsoft Word, Excel or PowerPoint files on their smartphones - was featured on the Sony Ericsson P910 smartphone.

Quickoffice first received funding from Advantage in 2005 in connection with Texas' certified capital companies program. To learn more about Quickoffice Premier v3.6, go [here](#).

#### **New York's Synacor and Academy123 partner to expand distribution network**

Synacor, a leading platform provider of content and services on the Internet, and Academy123 plan to expand the distribution of Academy123's NutshellMath homework help program to more than 10 million households served by broadband. NutshellMath, a web-based program that helps students understand math problems, will be bundled with other educational and family oriented content from Synacor.

Subscribers can choose from NutshellMath Essentials, a complete lesson overview for all components of pre-algebra, algebra and geometry, as well as NutshellMath Premium, which features content aligned with 40,000 problems found in leading math textbooks.

"Our agreement with Academy123 enables Synacor to provide our distribution partners with premier educational math content as a value-add to their millions of broadband subscribers," said Synacor's Ron Frankel, president and chief executive officer.

Advantage Capital first invested in Buffalo-based Synacor in late 2003, in connection with New York's certified capital companies program. To learn more about Synacor's partnership with Academy123, go [here](#).

### **Economic Development News**

#### **Missouri leading the way in support for small businesses**

Missouri is a good place to have a small business, with a number of legislative initiatives over the years contributing to a favorable business environment. Writing in *St. Louis Small Business Monthly*, Dan Mehan, president and chief executive officer of the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, cited workers comp and tort reform legislation, the Missouri Quality Jobs Act, the certified capital companies program and other measures that have helped small businesses succeed.

Such efforts have played a major role in the venture capital infrastructure Missouri now enjoys and brought billions of dollars into the state to support promising businesses, develop innovative technologies, and create thousands of jobs. In addition, the federal New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program has facilitated the raising of additional private capital for investments in businesses located in low-income communities. Under this program, Advantage

has raised more than \$90 million for investment in businesses and commercial projects in St. Louis and other cities.

To read more about how Missouri is raising the bar on venture capital, go [here](#).

### About Us

[Advantage Capital Partners](#) is a private equity firm focused on investing in promising companies in connection with federal, state, and local economic development efforts. With offices in New Orleans, St. Louis, New York, Austin, Washington, D.C., Tampa, Madison, Denver and Huntsville, Advantage has raised more than \$700 million in institutional private equity since 1992 and has invested in companies and projects located in states and communities underserved by traditional venture capital.



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