

ADVANTAGE CAPITAL PARTNERS

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Advantage Capital News

Advantage Capital named one of the "Best Places to Work" by the *St. Louis Business Journal*

[Advantage Capital](#) was recently honored as a finalist in the *St. Louis Business Journal's* 2008 Best Places to Work awards competition. This year 15 finalists were selected from more than 200 nominations. All finalists were honored at an awards dinner on April 10 at the Pageant Concert Night club in St. Louis. To read more on the awards, go [here](#).

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Advantage Capital invests in Portico Learning Solutions through Louisiana CAPCO program, fosters entrepreneurship in Baton Rouge

[Portico Learning Solutions](#) (formerly Flying Fish Creative Services, Inc.), a premier provider of e-Learning solutions, has raised \$1 million from Advantage Capital and other investors. The funding will be used to support the company's continued growth.

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Ticker Tape Update:

To date, Advantage Capital has partnered with its portfolio companies to help create more than **10,572 jobs nationwide** and our investments have resulted in more than **\$4.5 billion in follow-on capital.**

"Advantage first invested in Portico in 2006 and since then the company has continued its growth with the addition of 10 new employees and an established list of loyal customers," said Justin Oblatz, a senior associate at Advantage Capital who serves on the Portico board of directors. "This second round of financing underscores our commitment to the company and to fostering entrepreneurship in the Baton Rouge area."

Portico Learning Solutions offers a variety of Internet-based learning systems for corporate, academic and government clients. The company currently provides online e-Learning to more than 100,000 users at mid-sized companies and organizations worldwide.

Advantage Capital's investment in Portico was made in connection with Louisiana's Certified Capital Company program. For more on this investment, go [here](#).

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New York's Chapman Instruments receives venture capital financing from Advantage Capital Partners

[Chapman Instruments](#), a developer of optical, non-contact equipment for topography measurements of critical surfaces, recently raised \$600,000 from Advantage Capital. Chapman will use the funding to roll out a new product line and continue company growth.

"Chapman is one of the few semiconductor companies located in western New York and our investment will help the company expand and bring additional well-paying technology jobs to the Rochester area," said Scott Murphy, Advantage Capital managing director. "We are pleased to enable the company's continued growth."

Rochester-based Chapman Instruments designs and manufactures optical equipment that measures semiconductor wafer and hard disk drive surface roughness and thickness. Advantage Capital invested in the company with funds raised in connection with New York's Certified Capital Company program. Click [here](#) to read more on the Chapman investment.

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Portfolio Company News

GridPoint and Duke Energy complete first test of smart charging for plug-in hybrid cars

Advantage portfolio company [GridPoint Inc.](#), a leading clean tech company, and Duke Energy have completed the first commercial test of utility-controlled "smart charging" for

plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs). Duke tested the smart charging capability by plugging a PHEV into a garage wall outlet controlled by the [GridPoint SmartGrid Platform](#). The charging began after 10:00 p.m. even though the vehicle was originally plugged in during the late afternoon.

GridPoint's smart charging capability enables utilities to control charging regardless of when consumers plug in their PHEVs. This control leads to reduced stress on the electric grid and reduced costs by billing lower rates for off-peak charging.

GridPoint also raised \$15 million from Querus Trust last month and announced the appointment of five energy experts to its board.

"We are honored to welcome advisors of such high caliber," said Peter L. Corsell, president and CEO, GridPoint. "Their insight and counsel will be invaluable as we work to transform the current electric power grid into an intelligent network that drives energy efficiency and accelerates the adoption of renewable energy sources."

Since the company's inception in November 2003, GridPoint has raised \$102 million in equity capital. Advantage was an early investor in GridPoint, having invested in the company in 2005 through the Washington, D.C., Certified Capital Company program. To read more on GridPoint, a GridWise Alliance member, go [here](#).

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Austin-based SensorTran joins GridWise Alliance

[SensorTran, Inc.](#) has joined the [GridWise Alliance](#), a leading consortium of public and private stakeholders focused on transforming the nation's electric grid. The alliance, made up of more than 50 companies, provides a forum for members representing a broad range of interests in the electricity sector. Members can meet, exchange ideas and work cooperatively on a common set of issues, with the goal of making the electric grid more efficient, cost-effective, resilient, secure and reliable.

"As collaboration and innovation are critical to any major industry transformation, we are pleased to have SensorTran as part of the Alliance," said Guido Bartels, chairman, GridWise Alliance. "With the new energy bill that passed in 2007, Congress has signaled a significant shift in our nation's energy policy. By having companies like SensorTran join the Alliance, we are advancing our strategy of building a broad national consensus for implementing these Smart Grid concepts."

SensorTran develops DTS solutions that offer real-time, high-resolution and continuous temperature measurements along optical fibers. The technology is the result of extensive research, development, field experience and proprietary know-how, and can be applied in power cables, downhole oil and gas wells, high temperature vessels, pipelines, storage tanks and environmental projects.

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](#).

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AuthenTec rolls out new fingerprint sensor for the PC market

[AuthenTec](#), a leading provider of fingerprint sensors and solutions, has introduced a fifth generation sensor called the [AES2810](#). The new sensor, available for the personal computer (PC) market, is the first match-on sensor solution on the market today using a single chip hardware solution.

"We are very excited about this new sensor and what it brings to the table for businesses of all sizes that are in a constant battle to secure the data that walks out of the door every day," said AuthenTec president Larry Ciaccia. "In short, the AES2810 helps transform the PC from the weakest link in enterprise network security to one of the most secure."

With more than 25 million sensors sold worldwide, AuthenTec is the world leader in providing fingerprint authentication sensors and solutions to the high-volume PC, wireless device and access control markets. AuthenTec's award-winning fingerprint sensors are based on the company's [TruePrint](#) technology. TruePrint is a unique, sub-surface RF technology which reads below the surface of the skin to the live layer where the true fingerprint resides.

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

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Virent Energy Systems partners with Shell to develop new biofuels

[Virent Energy Systems](#) and Shell have announced a joint effort to create new biofuels that could potentially eliminate the need for specialized infrastructure, new engine designs and blending equipment. The collaboration involves converting plant sugars directly into gasoline and gasoline blend components, rather than ethanol. This effort may lead to biofuels that are used at high blend rates in standard gasoline engines.

Virent is a biofuels company commercializing an advanced biofuel technology to power today's vehicles in place of fossil fuels. Virent's patented [BioForming](#) process converts biomass derived feedstocks into conventional hydrocarbon fuels and products, including gasoline, diesel and jet fuel.

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

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Advantage People



Advantage's Tim Cockshutt serves as judge in 2008 Rice Business Plan Competition

Advantage Capital's Tim Cockshutt recently served as a judge in the 2008 [Rice Business Plan Competition](#) held on April 3-5th in Houston, Texas. Cockshutt is a managing director at Advantage Capital in Austin.

The competition has grown to become the largest intercollegiate MBA/graduate-level business plan competition in the world, with more prize money, more teams competing and more judges than any other competition. This year, thirty-six of the top schools from around the world presented business plans and competed in four categories: life sciences, sustainability, information technology, and consumer goods and products. The Grand Prize winner was the University of Texas at Austin for the qcue, which is a pricing software solution for concert promoters, sports teams and venues.

Cockshutt was among more than 170 competition judges, all of whom were selected based on their expertise in venture capital, early-stage investing and entrepreneurship.

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Advantage's Scott Zajac makes *St. Louis Business Journal's* list of Most Influential St. Louisans

Advantage Capital's Scott Zajac was recently honored as one of the *St. Louis Business Journal's* Most Influential St. Louisans. Zajac is senior managing director at Advantage in St. Louis.

The 275 leaders named to the list were honored at a breakfast reception on March 12 at the Saint Louis University John Cook School of Business. This is the ninth year the *St. Louis Business Journal* has produced a list of distinguished St. Louisans.

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Phil Thomas of Advantage Capital serves on panel at the Community Development Venture Capital Association

In late March, Advantage vice president Phil Thomas served as a speaker at the Community Development Venture Capital Association (CDVCA) annual conference in New York, participating on a panel that addressed strategies to keep the financial and social interests of portfolio companies and funds aligned.

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 goods 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. To read more about the CDVCA, go [here](#).

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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 \$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 New Markets Tax Credit program

The [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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