

**Media Contacts:**

Terree Wasley  
480-727-8871  
[terree.wasley@asu.edu](mailto:terree.wasley@asu.edu)

Kathy Sacks  
602-619-4444  
[kathy@kathysacks.com](mailto:kathy@kathysacks.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**INVEST SOUTHWEST LAUNCHES SEARCH FOR 10 BEST EMERGING GROWTH COMPANIES**

*Arizona's premier growth-capital conference opens presenting companies application process;  
Deadline to submit is Tuesday, October 31, 2006*

PHOENIX, Ariz. – September 21, 2006 — Invest Southwest, the successor to the Arizona Venture Capital Conference and the Arizona Angel Investment Conference, today announced a search for the *Best of the Southwest*: the region's 10 most promising early stage and emerging growth companies seeking a minimum of \$250,000 to \$5 million in equity capital.

"This conference is highly focused on connecting investors with the most promising emerging growth companies in our region," said Tom Curzon, Chair of Invest Southwest Capital Conference, and a Partner with Osborn Maledon. "And for those companies seeking capital for taking their businesses to the next level, Invest Southwest is a wonderful opportunity to make the right connections with funding sources looking for emerging, growth company investments ."

Each company selected will make a presentation to a group of qualified investors from across the country, including representatives of venture capital and private equity firms as well as angel investors. Prior to the conference, each of the companies selected will be assigned a mentor team comprised of experienced professionals who will provide valuable business coaching and funding advice.

The conference will be held on Thursday, February 22, 2007, at the Four Seasons Resort at Troon, North Scottsdale. The event includes an investor seminar, an internationally-recognized keynote speaker, presenter exhibits and interactive sessions where investors can meet one-on-one with company executives.

Presenting companies will be carefully selected by the following screening panel members:

- Mike Berrier, Square 1 Bank
- Tom Fencl, Green, Manning & Bunch
- Harry George, Solstice Capital
- Rick Gibson, Desert Angels
- Debra Guerin, Invencor
- John Hall, Horizon Ventures
- Dee Harris, Alare Capital Partners
- John Mascarenas, Intel Capital
- Jerry Mattingly, New Mexico Private Investors, Inc.
- Rudy Miller, The Miller Group
- Rob Moss, BDP Alliance
- Stephanie Spong, Wasatch Venture Fund
- Dan Wood, Inglewood Ventures
- Travis Wood, Silicon Valley Bank

At the event itself, screening panel members will select a "Best of the Best" presenting company. The winner will receive a mix of cash, business services and office equipment and supplies.

Invest Southwest is an alliance of business, professional, and governmental organizations interested in promoting entrepreneurial growth and economic development in the region, which include:

## **Sponsors**

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- Arizona Department of Commerce
- Arizona Technology Enterprises
- Beanstalk CFO Group
- CBIZ Miller Wagner
- Clifton Gunderson
- Eide Bailly
- Ernst & Young
- Fennemore Craig
- Green, Manning & Bunch
- Greenberg Traurig
- Lewis & Roca
- Osborn Maledon
- PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Raytech Corporation
- Rogers & Theobald
- Salt River Project
- SCF Arizona
- Schmidt Westergard & Company  
PLLC
- Silicon Valley Bank
- Snell & Wilmer
- The Miller Group

## **Partners**

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- Arizona Angels
- Arizona BioIndustry Association
- Arizona Technology Council
- BDP/Capital Consortium, Inc.
- City of Phoenix
- Desert Angels
- Enterprise Network
- Greater Phoenix Chamber of  
Commerce
- Greater Phoenix Economic Council
- TIE

For over 15 years, Invest Southwest (including its predecessors, AVCC then AAIC) has been the most effective way for investors to connect with the region's top ventures. Companies making their debut at past editions of this capital conference include: Ventana Medical, NetPro, Vivid Semiconductor, ImaRx, Photometrics, Vital Therapies, Sequencia and Auto Xray.

Presenter applications for the 2007 conference are due by Tuesday, October 31, 2006. Emerging companies applying to present should be seeking a minimum of \$250,000 and up to \$5 million in equity capital and have credible plans for expansion with anticipated annual sales of over \$20 million within the next five years.

For more information on Invest Southwest and participation in the conference, see [www.investsouthwest.org](http://www.investsouthwest.org). ASU Technopolis is serving as the administrative host for Invest Southwest.

### **About Invest Southwest**

Invest Southwest is the region's premier growth-capital conference. For over 15 years, Invest Southwest (including its predecessors, Arizona Venture Capital Conference then Arizona Angel Investment Conference) has long been the best way for investors to connect with the Southwest's most promising ventures. The forum takes place on February 22, 2006 at the Four Seasons resort in North Scottsdale where 10 up-and-coming companies present their plans and financing opportunities to an audience of 100+ investors. Visit [www.investsouthwest.org](http://www.investsouthwest.org) for more information.

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