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Open Prairie Adds HarbourVest to Limited Partner Base

Boston-based Firm Buys SBA's Stake in Midwest-focused VC Fund

EFFINGHAM, Ill. (July 19, 2006) — Open Prairie Ventures announced that HarbourVest Partners, LLC became a limited partner in its Open Prairie Ventures Fund through the purchase of the stake previously held by the Small Business Administration (SBA). The SBA, through The Small Business Investment Company Act (SBIC), acquired an interest in the \$40 million fund in 2000. Financial terms were not disclosed. With operations in Effingham, Ill., Kansas City, Kan., and Chicago, Open Prairie Ventures invests in early-stage Midwest technology ventures.

“HarbourVest brings an institutional perspective to the table and validates Open Prairie Ventures’ record of selecting promising companies,” said Jim Schultz, founder and managing partner of Open Prairie Ventures. “This transaction gives us a strategic partner with one of the most respected names in the private equity industry, enabling us to continue supporting our investments in Midwestern companies with promising technology in the medical, IT, life sciences, and wireless communications sectors.”

Schultz continued, “The transaction also proves that the Open Prairie Ventures team can complete challenging deals — with buying out the SBA-SBIC. HarbourVest also has committed to provide follow-on financing for the fund’s current investments.”

In 2000, Schultz, founder and managing partner, and Dennis E. Beard, chief financial officer and general partner, initiated Open Prairie Ventures I, L.P., and invested in 15 Midwest companies. The HarbourVest transaction provided an opportunity to add Michael Peck to the Open Prairie Fund I partnership. The fund has invested in numerous promising companies, including TomoTherapy Inc., manufacturer of a proprietary “image guided intensity modulated radiation therapy” cancer treatment technology, MedVenture Technology Corporation, developer of innovative medical device technologies, and Infoblox, a developer of network identity appliances. The three partners will collectively manage the Fund I portfolio.

Schultz, a native of Effingham, has a diverse background and has been an active investor in a wide variety of start-up companies, investment banking, and entrepreneurial ventures. He is the managing partner with Beard and Peck. Beard has a rich entrepreneurial, operational and investment background. Peck manages the firm’s Kansas City office and previously managed a State of Kansas seed and early-stage technology venture fund.

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About Open Prairie Ventures

Open Prairie Ventures is an early-stage venture capital firm investing in promising information technology, wireless communication and life science technology companies. Open Prairie applies both its capital and team's expertise to focus on companies with efficient capital usage and innovative and disruptive technologies. With offices in Illinois and Kansas City, Open Prairie's national reach and unique access to investment opportunities throughout the Midwest region has allowed the firm to build a diverse portfolio of growth technology companies. For more information, visit www.OpenPrairie.com.

About HarbourVest

HarbourVest Partners, LLC is an independent global private equity investment firm and an SEC registered investment advisor, providing vehicles for institutional investors to invest in the venture capital and buyout markets in the U.S., Europe, and elsewhere through primary partnerships, secondary purchases, and direct investments. HarbourVest and its subsidiaries have 153 employees, including 60 investment professionals deployed in Boston, London, and Hong Kong. In 25 years of investing in private equity, the team has committed more than \$13.3 billion to newly formed funds, representing relationships with 200 private equity managers. The team has also completed over \$3.2 billion in purchases of 460 secondary partnership interests, and invested \$2.5 billion directly in operating companies. The firm's clients consist of 240 institutional investors including pension funds, endowments, foundations, and financial institutions throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe, Australia, and Japan. To learn more about HarbourVest, visit www.harbourvest.com. This communication has been approved for issue in the United Kingdom by HarbourVest Partners (U.K.) Limited, which is regulated by the Financial Services Authority.

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