

Business First of Columbus - May 27, 2008

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## COLUMBUS BUSINESS FIRST

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# Ohio-Midwest Fund puts \$11M into private-equity firms

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The Ohio Public Employees Retirement System and Credit Suisse Group have put another \$11 million from their Ohio-Midwest Fund into two venture-capital firms.

The recipients are Early Stage Partners of Cleveland and Mistral Equity Partners, a New York-based fund with a Columbus office.

"These two fund managers are very well-suited for our two-fold mission of generating superior returns for our members and encouraging business growth within Ohio and the surrounding region," Jennifer C. Hom, OPERS' director of investments, said in a statement.

The Ohio-Midwest Fund was established in 2005 to provide funding to venture capital and other firms that provide funding for companies in the state and the Midwest. Early Stage Partners was created in 2001 to provide early-stage capital to primarily supply-chain management, life sciences and technology firms in northeast Ohio. Mistral, created in 2006, pursues buyout deals and investments in the consumer-products and media industries.

OPERS and Credit Suisse would not disclose how the \$11 million was split between the firms.

Ohio PERS has contributed \$100 million to the Ohio-Midwest Fund and Switzerland-based Credit Suisse (NYSE:CSI), has invested about \$2 million. With the latest investments, \$72 million has been committed to a dozen private-equity firms.

- River Cities Capital Funds, Cincinnati and Raleigh, N.C.
- Chrysalis Ventures, Louisville, Ky. and Cleveland
- Stonehenge Opportunity Fund II, Columbus
- Reservoir Venture Partners II, Columbus and Cleveland
- Riverside Micro-Cap Fund, Cleveland, New York, San Francisco and Dallas
- Draper Triangle Ventures II, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Pittsburgh
- Triathlon Medical Ventures, Cincinnati, Louisville, Indianapolis and St. Louis

- Blue Point Capital Partners II, Cleveland, Charlotte, N.C., and Seattle
- Strength Capital Partners II, Cincinnati and Birmingham, Mich.
- SFW Capital Partners, Hudson and Rye, N.Y.
- Early Stage Partners, Cleveland
- Mistral Equity Partners, New York and Columbus

More information on the Ohio-Midwest Fund is available at the Web site **[ohioinvestmentfund.com](http://ohioinvestmentfund.com)**.

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