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Source: Credit Suisse and Ohio PERS

**Two More Private Equity Fund Managers Selected for Ohio-Midwest Fund**

Wednesday May 21, 11:30 am ET

**The Fund Has Now Committed \$72 Million**

COLUMBUS, Ohio--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Credit Suisse and the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (Ohio PERS) announced yesterday the investment of a total of \$11 million in two more Ohio private equity fund managers, Early Stage Partners and Mistral Equity Partners.

"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," said Jennifer C. Hom, Director of Investments for Ohio PERS. "We're pleased to have two more high-caliber fund managers join our already outstanding portfolio."

The fund managers selected for the program are subject to a rigorous and comprehensive review process and are required to have a significant market presence in Ohio and the Midwest region, while maintaining a return-oriented investment strategy. Fund commitments are also targeted to take advantage of Ohio's clusters of innovation, including industrial, consumer and business services segments, information technology, advanced electronics, and biosciences.

Early Stage Partners, headquartered in Cleveland, was formed in 2001 to provide early-stage capital to companies primarily located in Northeast Ohio. The firm invests primarily in promising opportunities in the life sciences; technology areas including software, supply chain management, and advanced manufacturing; and polymers and advanced materials. Some of the high-growth Ohio companies currently in the firm's portfolio are AxioMed Spine Corporation, TOA Technologies and Thin Battery Technologies, Inc.

Mistral Equity Partners was formed in 2006 to pursue buyout and growth-oriented investments, with a focus on the consumer and media industries. The firm is headquartered in New York City with a second office in Columbus. Mistral has a strong presence in Ohio and the Midwest region through its strategic partnership with the Schottenstein Family of Companies, as well as through its investment track record.

In addition to Early Stage Partners and Mistral Equity Partners, the Ohio-Midwest Fund is also invested in the following private equity funds:

- Blue Point Capital Partners II, with offices in Cleveland, Charlotte and Seattle;
- Chrysalis Ventures Fund III, with offices in Cleveland and Louisville, Ky.;
- Draper Triangle Ventures II, with offices in Cleveland, Cincinnati and Pittsburgh;
- Reservoir Venture Partners II, with offices in Columbus and Cleveland;
- River Cities Capital Fund IV, with offices in Cincinnati and Raleigh, N.C.;
- Riverside Micro-Cap Fund, with offices in Cleveland, New York, San Francisco and Dallas;

- SFW Capital Partners, with offices in Hudson, Ohio and Rye, N.Y.;
- Stonehenge Opportunity Fund II, with offices in Columbus;
- Strength Capital Partners II, with offices in Cincinnati and Birmingham, Mich.; and
- Triathlon Medical Ventures, with offices in Cincinnati, Louisville, Indianapolis and St. Louis.

"Both Early Stage Partners and Mistral Equity Partners have a very strong track record of investing in Ohio and the Midwest region," said Mike Arpey, a Managing Director and Co-Head of Credit Suisse's Customized Fund Investment Group. "We look forward to building on the Ohio-Midwest Fund's success. In addition to the fund managers' focus on generating returns, they have already put more than \$115 million to work in Ohio, attracted more than \$50 million in co-investments into these deals, and positively impacted more than 2,500 jobs."

The \$102 million Ohio-Midwest Fund is a fund-of-funds that invests in high-quality, private equity funds that focus, in whole or in part, on making investments in the Ohio and Midwest regions. The program was established by Ohio PERS and Credit Suisse in 2005 to generate superior returns for Ohio PERS members and encourage business growth within Ohio and the surrounding area. Based on the program's initial success, Ohio PERS expanded the Fund from \$51 million to \$102 million in May 2007, with Ohio PERS contributing \$100 million and Credit Suisse contributing approximately \$2 million.

Private equity fund managers interested in the Ohio-Midwest Fund program should contact Mel Carter, Credit Suisse's in-state investment specialist, at 614.227.0307 for more information.

For more information about the Ohio-Midwest Fund, visit [www.ohioinvestmentfund.com](http://www.ohioinvestmentfund.com).

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### *Contact:*

Lesic & Camper Communications

Stephanie Pavol, 614-220-8659

[spavol@lesiccamper.com](mailto:spavol@lesiccamper.com)

or

Credit Suisse

Suzanne Fleming, 212-325-7396

[suzanne.fleming@credit-suisse.com](mailto:suzanne.fleming@credit-suisse.com)

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Source: Credit Suisse and Ohio PERS

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