

News Release

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SBA Issues Small Business Investment Company License to Southern California Company

Provides Additional Millions for Investment in California Small Businesses

LOS ANGELES – The U.S. Small Business Administration announced today that it has issued a small business investment company (SBIC) license to Vintage SBIC, LP of Southern California. The SBA-backed venture capital company will target underserved markets and overlooked industries.

Vintage SBIC, with up to \$111 million in capital, will primarily invest in manufacturing, business service, and consumer products/retail companies. The SBIC is seeking to invest between \$5-10 million in companies with annual revenues of between \$25-250 million.

“I am pleased we are issuing this license to a California SBIC that will make a significant investment in small businesses in this state,” said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. “In fiscal year 2005 more than 13,800 California small businesses received loans through SBA’s various capital programs and we are pleased to be able to infuse additional capital into the marketplace through the issuance of this license.”

Administrator Barreto made the announcement following a small business roundtable hosted by California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in Lynwood. More than two-dozen California small business owners participated in the discussion.

“Small businesses are the backbone of our economy,” said Governor Schwarzenegger. “We must do everything we can at the state and federal level to make sure they succeed. I want to thank Administrator Barreto and the SBA for their hard work to expand programs that help California small businesses. I look forward to many, many more programs like this and to formally establishing a closer partnership with the SBA very soon.”

Vintage SBIC, LP is being led by California businessman Fred Sands along with Henry Brandon and Mark Sampson.

In 1958, Congress created the Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) program to bridge the gap between entrepreneurs’ need for capital and traditional financing sources. Since that time, the SBIC program has grown to over 400 private equity partnerships managing \$22 billion in combined public and private capital. Today, SBICs invest across the spectrum of private equity financing, including venture, buyout and mezzanine. SBICs also fill the gap by providing capital to overlooked industries, such as manufacturing, services, and retail. Finally, they are diversified geographically, with significant presence in underserved states in the Midwest and South.

For more information about the SBIC program and other SBA programs, visit the SBA’s extensive website at www.sba.gov.