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Buckeye Venture Partners Announces Final Closing of The Ohio Capital FundSM

The Ohio Capital Fund Oversubscribed at \$150 million

CINCINNATI — Oct. 04, 2006 — Buckeye Venture Partners, LLC (BVP) — a joint venture between the private equity division of Cincinnati-based Fort Washington Investment Advisors, Inc. (Fort Washington) and Peppertree Partners, LLC (Peppertree) of Cleveland — has successfully closed The Ohio Capital FundSM (TOCF) with \$150 million in commitments. TOCF had a goal of \$125 million.

“This final closing of The Ohio Capital Fund was a highly anticipated and important milestone for the state of Ohio in regards to venture capital development and economic growth,” said Stephen Baker, managing director, private equity for Fort Washington and BVP member. “We are excited to have this fund closed and to continue actively looking at opportunities where venture capital funds will invest capital in Ohio to create new businesses and jobs.”

TOCF, a fund of funds, was founded in 2005 and aims to serve as a catalyst for venture capital activity in Ohio by driving private investment into Ohio companies in the early and seed stage of business development. BVP was selected as program administrator of TOCF by the Ohio Venture Capital Authority (OVCA).

“We are pleased with the progress that BVP has been making. Their expertise in managing The Ohio Capital Fund and its resources on behalf of the OVCA has helped to spur on economic activity in Ohio,” said Lt. Governor Bruce Johnson, who also serves as state development director.

“BVP has invested the proper amount of time and due diligence to make The Ohio Capital Fund a success ... not only for the OVCA, but more importantly, for the people of Ohio. These kinds of investments take time to nurture and grow to serve the purpose of stimulating Ohio’s economy.”

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As part of a 15-year definitive agreement with the OVCA, TOCF is backed by a bank syndicate led by Fifth Third Bank. This syndicate includes a significant leading commitment by Deutsche Bank, as well as commitments from six other financial institutions.

“The partnership between Fifth Third and The Ohio Capital Fund has been a ground breaking transaction for Ohio and its business climate,” said Jeff Pasquale, vice president at Fifth Third. “Due to the requirements of the program, we were able to work closely with BVP to customize the transaction to meet the needs of venture capitalists and entrepreneurs in Ohio through the Fund.”

TOCF will make commitments to underlying funds that agree to, among other requirements, invest in Ohio-based early and seed stage companies as part of their investment strategy.

“As a result of the progress that The Ohio Capital Fund has made since its inception, Ohio has reaffirmed its policy of providing an attractive economic environment for seed and early stage technology investors, entrepreneurs and companies,” said Kevin McGinty, managing director of Peppertree Partners and BVP member. “Because of The Ohio Capital Fund, there will be significant additional dollars available to fund new technology opportunities within the State of Ohio.”

Application materials and information for prospective fund managers are available at www.theohiocapitalfund.com.

About Buckeye Venture Partners, LLC

Buckeye Venture Partners, LLC (BVP) is a joint venture between Cincinnati-based registered investment advisor Fort Washington Investment Advisors, Inc. (Fort Washington) and Peppertree Partners, LLC, a registered investment advisor based in Cleveland. BVP is program administrator for The Ohio Capital FundSM, a fund of funds established in early 2005 to help increase private investment in Ohio companies in the seed or early stage of business development. Peppertree Partners is a private equity manager solely focused on the identification, due diligence, and selection of top performing venture capital and buyout funds. As a member of Western & Southern Financial Group[®], Fort Washington provides professional and comprehensive investment management services for institutions, corporations, insurance companies, mutual funds, foundations, associations and high-net-worth individuals. Fort Washington manages more than \$26.3 billion in assets.*

**As of 6/30/06, does not include Todd Investment Advisors, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary, with \$3.5 billion in assets; or Fort Washington Capital Partners Group, a division for Fort Washington Investment Advisors, Inc. with \$939 million in commitments and assets under management.*

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