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AERO ESTABLISHES FUND OF FUNDS INITIATIVE Effort will Promote Venture Capital Investments in Arizona

Phoenix, AZ – The Arizona Economic Resource Organization (AERO) has secured initial funding through the Commerce and Economic Development Commission (CEDC) to establish an Arizona Fund of Funds. The program raises investment capital from investors – both private and public sector - and reinvests those funds in several professionally managed target venture funds.

“The partners on this project are committed to enhancing Arizona’s global competitiveness by accelerating the pace of discovery, innovation and technology business development,” said Jan Leshner, Director of the Arizona Department of Commerce and an incorporating director of the Arizona Economic Resource Organization. “A Fund of Funds will increase access to capital and foster a burgeoning entrepreneurial business climate in the State.”

AERO will serve as the catalyst in establishing an Arizona Fund of Funds to significantly increase the size and diversification of the venture capital industry in Arizona over a two-year period.

“Today we start with \$325,000 made available through the CEDC’s Innovation and Technology funding,” said AERO board member Bill Hardin, an attorney with Osborn Maledon in Phoenix. “AERO will use this seed investment to build the infrastructure of an Arizona Fund of Funds, which will grow Arizona’s venture capital industry and arm the science and technology leaders in Arizona with an important additional source of capital investment.”

Through strategic and coordinated fund raising, venture fund selection and investment oversight, AERO’s goal is to establish a \$50 million Fund of Funds which will be structured and managed to attract overall investment of at least \$200 million to help commercialize Arizona innovations.

“The resulting access to seed funding and venture capital investments through this initiative will be a powerful resource for science and technology entrepreneurs,” said AERO board member Larry Hecker, principal of Hecker & Muehlebach in Tucson. “Arizona now joins more than 40 states with similar initiatives that recognize access to capital as a critical piece of the infrastructure for growing new companies.”

To qualify for an investment from the Fund of Funds program, each target venture fund must satisfy criteria developed to insure specified minimum levels of targeted investment activity in the state.



Arizona Economic Resource Organization

Shaping the Future of Arizona

About the Arizona Economic Resource Organization (AERO)

The Arizona Economic Resource Organization (AERO) is a nonprofit 501(c)(6) organization that has begun work on coordinating the State's economic development efforts to increase the region's visibility and ability to compete in the global economy. AERO consists of individuals and representatives from private business, nonprofit groups, the public sector, communities, the Arizona Department of Commerce, state universities and institutions of higher learning. AERO's mission is to provide policy guidance and assistance to economic development entities and communities across the state.