

**ADVANTAGE CAPITAL FINANCES ST. LOUIS-BASED
ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATIONS, INC.**

*Missouri New Markets Development program spurs company growth
and job creation in south St. Louis*

ST. LOUIS, February 23, 2009 - Advantage Capital Partners, a leading venture capital and small business finance firm, today announced it has provided \$5.85 million in financing to Environmental Operations, Inc. (EOI), the St. Louis region's largest environmental services firm.

In a financing partnership with Southwest Bank, Advantage Capital provided funding in connection with the Missouri New Markets Development program and the federal New Markets Tax Credit program. The funds will be used to support Environmental Operations' continued growth.

"EOI has a strong track record and competitive edge, and has developed into a leader in high profile environmental waste removal projects," said Mark Lewis, principal at Advantage Capital. "This financing will provide much-needed capital to an award-winning, innovative business run by a local entrepreneur who is well-regarded within the St. Louis business community."

Founded in 1986, Environmental Operations, Inc. (EOI) provides specialized environmental services to clients throughout the St. Louis region. The company identifies and resolves environmental site issues, including its expertise in Brownfield incentives and risk assumption tools. EOI has been recognized by the national Phoenix Brownfield Awards, Associated General Contractors Build America Awards and government officials. Recently completed projects include Busch Stadium in St. Louis, the River City Casino in Lemay, the Hazelwood Commerce Center and NorthPark (Phase 1), located in north St. Louis.

EOI is currently undertaking a project involving the remediation and demolition of the former Monsanto Solutia John Queeny plant. Once the remediation is complete, the site will be redeveloped into a mixed-use commercial and office space complex totaling 500,000 square-feet of useable, energy efficient space. Hundreds of permanent jobs are expected to be created in an area that previously sat vacant for more than two years.

"EOI is a growing company that employs highly skilled managers and engineers," said Stacy Hastie, EOI Chief Executive. "The financing from

Advantage Capital and Southwest Bank will allow us to continue our growth in the St. Louis region and expand our efforts to other parts of the country."

The state and federal New Markets programs are designed to stimulate economic growth in communities that historically have been underserved by traditional sources of capital.

About Advantage Capital Partners

Advantage Capital Partners (www.advantagecap.com) is a leading venture capital and small business finance firm focused on early stage companies and other investments supporting state and local economic development efforts. With offices and partners in St. Louis, New Orleans, Austin and other U.S. cities, Advantage has raised more than \$1 billion in capital since 1992 and invested in companies located in geographic areas underserved by traditional venture capital.

About the federal New Markets Tax Credit program

The federal New Markets Tax Credit program, administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, encourages private-sector investment in economically distressed communities through tax incentives. Advantage Capital has participated in the New Markets program since 2003, raising private capital for investment in low-income communities. These investments have spurred economic growth through innovative business ventures and job creation across the United States.

About the Missouri New Markets Development program

Enacted in 2007, the Missouri New Markets Development program encourages investment in promising small businesses located in distressed communities throughout the state. The program enables up to \$186 million of capital investment in Missouri's small businesses.

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