

MISSOURI NEW MARKETS PROGRAM CREATES "GREEN" JOBS AT TWO COMPANIES IN RURAL MISSOURI

Advantage Capital Partners announces investments in
Carbolytic Materials Co. and Producers' Choice LLC

ST. LOUIS, November 24, 2008 - The Missouri New Markets Development program is responsible for a new round of financing for two "green" businesses in rural Missouri. Carbolytic Materials Co. in Maryville and Producers' Choice Soy Energy, LLC in Moberly have received a total of \$21.9 million in financing from Advantage Capital Partners. The funding was made possible through state and federal tax programs designed to stimulate growth in underserved communities.

Carbolytic Materials Co., the first company to successfully commercialize a carbon black alternative suitable for industrial use from scrap tires, has received \$12.4 million of state and federal New Markets funding, as part of a total \$16.5 million project financing. The company uses its licensed technology to create ApexCM™, a lower cost, environmentally friendly alternative to carbon black that is extracted from existing rubber products.

"In these tough economic times, it is critical that we have the tools like Missouri New Markets to support small business development and job creation," said Lee Langerock, executive director for Nodaway County Economic Development. "The Missouri New Markets initiative prioritized by the Missouri General Assembly is creating a positive impact in rural areas as well as the state's major cities. We're especially pleased to have this investment in the Maryville community."

"Despite the startup, project-finance nature of the company, Advantage Capital was able to provide a very high percentage of the total funding needed, which filled a financing gap and enabled the project to move forward," said Jeremy Degenhart, senior vice president at Advantage Capital. "This level of financing simply would not have been possible, for any lender, without the benefit of the Missouri New Markets Development Program."

Carbolytic will use the funds to build its Maryville manufacturing facility where it will process more than 15,000 tons of used tires annually to create Apex CM, which can be used for hoses, gaskets, belts, roofing material, plastic piping, sheeting plastic and more. The facility will create at least 21 new permanent jobs, with salaries that are above county average, and an additional 25 construction jobs. Carbolytic recently began construction of the new facility and celebrated with a groundbreaking event on Thursday, November 6. The manufacturing plant is expected to be completed by June 2009.

"Carbolytic Materials is developing carbon black technologies that will have a positive impact on the economy and environment," said Ray Riek, CEO of Carbolytic Materials. "Our recycled carbon black product singlehandedly reduces the landfill use of tires, dependency on foreign oil, and CO2 emissions."

In another direction towards "green" jobs, Missouri's New Markets Development program was instrumental in providing a \$9.5 million construction loan to Producers' Choice Soy Energy, LLC as part of a \$17 million total alternative energy project. The funding from Advantage Capital will be used to support the construction and

operational needs of a soybean processing plant and a biodiesel production facility in Moberly, Mo.

"I'm proud to have supported the New Markets program because it is helping to create jobs and economic growth in our community," said Rep. Therese Sander, who represents the Moberly area.

"The demand for biodiesel is growing as it is a renewable fuel that will have a substantial impact on our nation's energy independence," Louis Dubuque, managing director at Advantage Capital added. "This investment will stimulate economic growth in rural Missouri with new state-of-the-art facilities."

The soybean crush will provide up to 250 tons of soybeans daily for biodiesel conversion, as well as 65,000 tons of extruded soybean meal each year. Other byproducts such as glycerin and soybean hulls will be sold primarily in Missouri. When fully operational, the biodiesel plant will produce five million gallons of biodiesel annually in its initial phase. Site construction is currently underway and the new facilities are expected to open in early 2009.

"This locally-owned project sits in the heart of Missouri's soybean belt," said Jim Beckley, Board Chair at Producers' Choice. "The investment will provide employment opportunities in our rural community with the addition of 24 new jobs."

Advantage Capital's investment in both Carbolytic and Producers' Choice was made possible in connection with the federal New Markets Tax Credit and Missouri New Markets Development Programs. Both 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. In a highly competitive allocation procedure, the Treasury Department awards the tax credits based on applications submitted for each tax year. Advantage 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. The state program attracts investment in low-income

communities through a state tax credit modeled after the federal New Markets Tax Credit. The goal of the program is to attract large, long-term investors to Missouri's low-income communities, promoting new expansion, creating new job opportunities and building on existing growth in the state.

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