

Louisiana -

ADVANTAGE CAPITAL PARTNERS PROVIDES \$4 MILLION FINANCING TO WESTPORT LINEN SERVICES

Louisiana New Markets Development program enables commercial laundry expansion and job growth in Baton Rouge

BATON ROUGE, La., March 4, 2009 - Advantage Capital Partners, a venture capital and small business finance firm, has provided a total of \$4 million in financing to Westport Linen Services, LLC, a commercial laundry service company that provides linen services to hospitals and healthcare centers in southern Louisiana and Mississippi. Westport Linen will use the funds to relocate to a larger facility, expand its operations and hire new employees in Baton Rouge.

"Westport Linen is run by a highly-experienced management team with a sound business model. The company offers customers substantial cost savings and improved services in the healthcare laundry business," said Justin Oblatz, vice president at Advantage Capital.

Westport Linen recently settled into its new 45,000 square-foot facility on Florida Boulevard in Baton Rouge. The newly renovated space has been equipped with state-of-the-art laundry equipment and the company has been steadily increasing its workforce with more growth expected, according to Westport Linen owner Eddie Lefeaux.

"Our exclusive focus on the healthcare linen industry is what sets us apart from most of our competitors in the area," said Lefeaux.

"Westport Linen offers a more cost-effective solution than on-premise laundry facilities and we also offer pickup and delivery service to our 65-plus customers. The funding from our investment partners will catapult our company into the next phase of growth and allow us to actively pursue more business in the region."

Founded in 2000, Westport Linen provides laundry services primarily to hospitals and healthcare centers in southern Louisiana and Mississippi. Westport Linen launders sheets, towels, hospital gowns, sterile surgical linens, and other linens. The company operates under long-term contracts for the majority of its customers, processing over 260,000 pounds of retail linen per week. In addition, Westport Linen is the only healthcare laundry in southeast Louisiana that is certified by the Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC), a non-profit organization formed for the purpose of inspecting and accrediting

laundries processing healthcare textiles for hospitals, nursing homes and other healthcare facilities.

"Our investment, made possible by the Louisiana New Markets program, will enable the company to grow and create several dozen new jobs, which is good news in an otherwise downward business cycle," added Obletz.

Advantage Capital made its investment in Westport Linen Services with funds raised in connection with Louisiana's New Markets Development program and the federal New Markets Tax Credit program. Both programs are designed to stimulate economic growth in communities that historically have been underserved by traditional sources of capital. Westport also received an additional \$2.7 million from IberiaBank, bringing the total amount of financing to \$6.7 million.

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 New Orleans, St. Louis, Austin and other U.S. cities, Advantage has raised more than \$1 billion since 1992 and invested in companies located in geographic areas underserved by traditional venture capital.

About the Louisiana New Markets Development program

The Louisiana New Markets Development program encourages investment in small businesses located in distressed communities throughout the state and particularly those communities in the GO Zone still recovering from the devastation of the hurricanes of 2005. The program enables up to \$400 million of capital investment in Louisiana'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.

About the 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.

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