



GEIF VENTURES MEANS REAL BUSINESS

Portfolio Companies Among “50 To Watch”

January 2004, Cambridge UK. GEIF Ventures, a £2.5 million fund set up within NW Brown Group in April 2003 to co-invest alongside business angels has announced that four of its investee companies have been named in the Real Business™ 2004 “50 to Watch”.

Innovation, original concept, fresh approach and bold and interesting people were among the judging criteria considered. Out of 400+ companies nominated, GEIF Ventures portfolio companies Artimi, OnRelay, Quotient Diagnostics and Reality Telecom were named among the 50 brightest hopes in the UK today.

Max Bautin, who manages GEIF Ventures, said, “I am very pleased to see that the quality and potential of our portfolio companies is well recognised by the professional community.”

Continuing the accolades is GEIF Ventures’ pub-restaurant chain investee Spice Inns, which has been shortlisted for the “New Publican of the Year” Award, results to be announced shortly. Bautin added, “We are equally pleased that it is not only the high tech companies that are excelling. Recognition such as these continues to demonstrate the sound investment decisions of the business angel community.”

GEIF Ventures has invested c£600K to date in six seed and early stage companies in the technology and ‘traditional business’ sectors, and expects to be announcing 2 more investments in the next couple of weeks.

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Notes to Editors:

GEIF Ventures www.geifventures.co.uk

GEIF Ventures is a £2.5 million co-investment fund within the NW Brown Group established with the commitment by the Small Business Service to co-invest with GEIF business angels into promising businesses. GEIFV is able to co-invest initially up to £100,000 and, if appropriate, follow up its investment by another £100,000 after 9 months. GEIFV is not a lead investor and can only invest when a company receives an investment from GEIF business angels.

Great Eastern Investment Forum www.geif.co.uk

GEIF is a leading UK business angels network strategically based in Cambridge. It is the fundamental link between early stage companies and business angels seeking quality investment opportunities. GEIF introductions, through regular company presentations and breakfast meetings, provide a secure and confidential business environment. GEIF website brings members all the latest investment opportunities and other relevant news. Since GEIF was launched in 1995, its members have helped over 150 early stage companies to raise in excess of £20 million of investment and to strengthen their teams with invaluable management skills. Membership of GEIF includes private investors, corporate investors, venture capitalists and corporate advisers.

NW Brown Group www.nwbrown.co.uk

NW Brown Group was founded in Cambridge in 1974. It offers a comprehensive range of financial services to private and corporate clients throughout the eastern region and beyond, including Investment Management, Stockbroking, Personal Financial Planning, Corporate Pensions, Employee Benefits, Private and Commercial Insurance, Venture Capital (First Cambridge Gateway Fund) , Corporate Finance and Seed and Early Stage Finance (Great Eastern Investment Forum and GEIF Ventures).