

The Business Journal of Phoenix - July 31, 2007

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PHOENIX Business Journal

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Venture capital conference seeks applicants

The Business Journal of Phoenix - by [Ty Young](#) The Business Journal

Another year, another opportunity for startup companies to jockey for funding from one of the most prominent venture capital conferences in the state.

Invest Southwest, formerly the Arizona Venture Capital Conference and the Arizona Angel Investment Conference, has been an Arizona mainstay for 15 years.

The two-day conference will bring local and national investors to the Valley Dec. 12-13. Early- to mid-stage Southwestern companies seeking between \$250,000 to \$5 million in equity capital must apply by Aug. 7 to be considered for the conference.

Selection is based on a 20-person screening panel that includes various local and national investors. The conference will be held at the Four Seasons Resort in Scottsdale.

"We look forward to building on the success of last year's inaugural event, which included 13 promising early-stage companies, of which six have received funding," said conference Chairman Richard Stagg, an attorney with **Snell & Wilmer LLP**.

Arizona companies that have been acquired by larger firms following initial funding from Invest Southwest include: Phoenix computer automation and integration solutions company **Sequencia**; flat-panel display firm **Vivid Semiconductor of Chandler**; and real estate auction company **HomeBid of Scottsdale**.

Thirteen companies -- all technology firms -- were chosen to present at last year's event. This year, organizers are looking at technology companies to fill only half of the presentation slots.

Presenting companies will be announced in mid-September.

A \$25,000 award for best presentation, a keynote speaker and an investor seminar also are part of the two-day program.

Arizona State University Technopolis is the administrative host for the conference.

For more: **www.investsouthwest.org**.

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