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**Meritus Ventures Announces First Arkansas Investment**

February 2009

Meritus Ventures announced the closing of an investment in Arkansas Automatic Sprinklers, Inc. (AASI) of Cabot, Arkansas. AASI is a fire protection sprinkler company founded in 1984 that designs, manufactures, installs, maintains, and inspects fire protection installations principally in Arkansas. The Company provides its services to commercial, industrial, institutional and residential customers. In addition to Arkansas, the company is licensed in Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri.

Meritus Ventures co-invested in the transaction with three other venture funds; Diamond State Ventures (Little Rock, AR), which led the round, Kansas Venture Capital (Leawood, KS), and Midstates Capital (Overland Park, KS). Collectively, the funds provided a combination of debt and equity to acquire AASI and supply growth capital for the business. Bank of America was the senior lender in the transaction, which closed on January 22, 2009.

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**SinglePipe Communications Raises Additional \$5.1 Million to Fund Company's Aggressive Growth Plans**

March 2009

SinglePipe Communications, a leading provider of wholesale Digital Voice services to the cable and other broadband industries, announced today that it has secured \$5.1 million in new equity. The company plans to use this funding to support its aggressive growth plans as it continues to expand its network and customer base.

According to Matt Phillips, CEO of SinglePipe Communications, "SinglePipe stands alone in the unique position to deploy and deliver customized and scalable Digital Voice solutions to cable and other broadband providers. Our services require minimal investment and create consistent streams of additional revenue for our customers, and at the same time, meet the complex demands of today's telecommunications marketplace. In an industry where our competitors are funded by groups of individual investors, SinglePipe has the institutional backing which allows us to take a longer-term approach."

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**WazooSports.com and PapaJohns.com to Sponsor Kentucky Derby Festival**

March 2009

The Kentucky Derby Festival is pleased to announce that Wazoo Sports is the new title sponsor of the Derby Festival Basketball Classic, to be played April 11 at Freedom Hall.

"One of my most memorable games as a basketball player was during the 1993 Derby Festival Basketball Classic," said Jeff Sheppard, Director of Sales for Wazoo Sports. "Now it's equally exciting to again play a part in the Basketball Classic. Wazoo Sports will provide the ultimate level of exposure for the fans, athletes and sponsors with the online coverage of the game."

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**Alcoa, TN Investing in Aldis' "Smart Grid" Technology; Receives "Smart City" Award**

April 2009

The City of Alcoa will receive a Smart City Award from the Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America) following the unveiling of a new real-time traffic management system, GridSmart™, that is designed to reduce intersection wait times and emissions, prevent collisions, and save taxpayers time and money by eliminating the need for the City to tear up pavement to replace broken intersections loop detectors.

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**About Meritus Ventures, L.P.**

Meritus Ventures, L.P. is currently the only Rural Business Investment Company (RBIC) in the United States. The \$36.5M venture capital fund invests to realize attractive returns for the fund's investors while creating wealth and jobs in rural areas of central and southern Appalachia and Arkansas. In addition to providing equity investment, the fund may provide operational assistance to its portfolio companies.

- To submit a request for financing, please visit: <http://meritusventures.fundpath.com/>
- For more details on our investment profile and criteria, please visit: [http://meritusventures.com/about/investment\\_criteria.html](http://meritusventures.com/about/investment_criteria.html)

**THIS EMAIL WAS SENT BY MERITUS VENTURES, L.P.**

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