



HighTower Advisors' \$100 million second round financing recognized as largest venture capital deal in financial services in 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wilton, CT (February 8, 2011)

DLB Capital, LLC is pleased to announce that the \$100 million second round financing of HighTower Advisors was the largest venture capital deal in the financial services sector in 2010 according to a report published by MBAFAQS India (in association with theVCwire.com). The second round financing was led by Asset Management Finance, DLB Capital and other incumbent investors.

DLB Capital was the first institutional investor in HighTower and has participated in every round of funding. Douglas Brown, Chairman and CEO of DLB Capital, serves as Co-Chairman of HighTower. "DLB continues to be excited about the prospects for HighTower," commented Mr. Brown. "This financing confirms that other key investors share our vision."

The *2011 Venture Capital Report* compiled 2,118 venture capital deals of 2010 across 30 different industries. HighTower's \$100 million capital raise was the largest venture capital deal by transaction size in the financial services industry and the 16th largest deal across all industries. For more information, please see an excerpt from the report below.

About HighTower Advisors

HighTower is the first open-source, advisor-owned financial services company, focused on the needs of wealthy families. HighTower advisors are experienced investment professionals with large, established practices serving high net worth clients. As a dually-registered, multi-custodial firm, HighTower provides sophisticated investment solutions as well as an independent and unobstructed view of the markets. The company is headquartered in Chicago and maintains corporate centers in New York and San Francisco and offices around the country.

Securities offered through HighTower Securities, LLC, Member FINRA/SIPC/MSRB. HighTower Advisors, LLC is registered with the SEC as an investment adviser.

For more information about HighTower Advisors, please visit www.hightoweradvisors.com

About DLB Capital, LLC

DLB Capital, LLC is a United States-based global investment and advisory firm focused on underserved industries in the United States, China, India and the Middle East. The group invests in companies at all business stages, from start-ups to established companies and provides expertise, capital and hands-on management to companies across all sectors. DLB Capital was founded in 2006 by Douglas L. Brown and is based in Wilton, CT.

For more information about DLB Capital, please visit our website at www.dlbcapital.com



(Excerpt – *The Venture Capital Report: 2011 Edition*)

2010 Funding Analysis

2010 was an exciting year for Venture Capital. In all, 2,118 major deals were reported in 30 industries and sectors with the clear winners being Internet, Software and BioTechnology startups. The total funding secured was in the range of \$21.8 billion. The year saw a remarkable interest in Digital Media startups which garnered more than 900 million dollars, up 63% from the last year. Internet, BioTechnology and Medical Devices too saw increased investment interests of more than 30% each compared to last year. The average investment was highest in the Transportation and Alternative Energy sector where some incredible innovation is being fueled by green startups. Coda Automotive emerged as the highest funded company with close to \$477 million in venture funding.

The biggest investments by Industry in 2010

Advanced Materials – EcoSynthetix (\$40.3 million)
Alternative Energy – BrightSource Energy (\$180 million)
Biotechnology – Knopp Neurosciences (\$72.5 million)
Cleantech – Envirogen Technologies (\$50 million)
Communications – Hibernia Atlantic (\$13.4 million)
Components – Fusion-io (\$45 million)
Consumer – FRS Company (\$23.1 million)
Digital Media – Zynga Game Network (\$147 million)
eCommerce – Xoom (\$33.3 million)
Education – 2tor (\$22 million)
Electronics – BridgeLux (\$50 million)
Energy – Boston-Power (\$66.4 million)
Financial Services – HighTower Advisors (\$100 million)
Healthcare – Precision Therapeutics (\$35 million)
Information Technology – Trilliant (\$106 million)
Internet – Twitter (\$205.2 million)
Media & Entertainment – Major League Gaming (\$10 million)
Medical Devices – Intuity Medical (\$64 million)
Mobile – Adenyo (\$26.9 million)
Nanotechnology – Nanolnk (\$65 million)
Networking – Tendril Networks (\$23 million)
Pharmaceuticals – Pearl Therapeutics (\$84 million)
Security – SafeNet (\$138.9 million)
Semiconductor – Stretch (\$57.7 million)
Software – SilkRoad Technology (\$68.5 million)
Storage – Coraid (\$35 million)
Technology – Fusion Multisystems (\$43.8 million)
Telecom – BNI Video (\$9 million)
Transportation – Coda Automotive (\$477 million)
Wireless – AirCell (\$176 million)