



Contact: Melissa Anthony
anthonyBarnum Public Relations
Tel: 512-329-2766
Melissa@anthonyBarnum.com

National Economic Slowdown Fuels Alternative Finance Solutions Demand *AIC Ventures Acquires \$37 million in Real Estate Assets and Prepares for More Nationwide*

AUSTIN, TX March 24 - Austin, Texas-based AIC Ventures, L.P., an investment fund manager providing alternative finance solutions to middle-market companies nationwide, has completed three commercial real estate sale-leaseback transactions, representing 1.3 million square feet of commercial real estate and totaling \$37.2 million in value.

"We're seeing an increase in demand for sale-leasebacks as a strategic capital solution for middle-market companies," said David Steinwedell, managing partner, AIC Ventures. "This year we're investing \$350 million and actively pursuing the acquisition of real estate assets nationwide."

In recent weeks, AIC Ventures has acquired real estate assets, and entered into long-term, triple net leases, with three companies in different regions of the country: Hollywood, Florida-based St. Ives, a print and design firm; Charlotte, North Carolina-based Otto Industries, a leader in the solid waste container industry; and Chicago-based The Great Escape, an indoor/outdoor recreational and leisure product retailer.

In 2008, AIC Ventures nearly doubled its transactions to \$250 million with its seventh fund. In each transaction, the company acquired the facility and property according to the original terms outlined. The capital infusion is used by companies to strengthen their corporate balance sheet fundamentals, fund growth initiatives or acquisitions and/or support other strategic investments. With fewer restrictions and requirements in comparison to more traditional financing options, sale-leasebacks offer sellers flexible capital that can be redeployed at the company's discretion.

"With the credit markets still tight, our sale-leaseback solutions offer companies a strategic resource to further their growth and pursue market opportunities," said Peter Carlsen, managing partner and president, AIC Ventures.

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Founded in 1990, AIC Ventures has acquired and entered into long-term leases with over 100 commercial real estate assets owned by middle-market companies. The firm's total transaction value is nearly \$900 million.

About AIC Ventures, L.P.

AIC Ventures is a leading provider of capital to middle-market companies. With nearly \$900 million in completed transactions, AIC Ventures structures innovative corporate finance solutions for companies facing limited, short-term or expensive alternatives for capital. The company has closed more than 100 transactions in 28 states. Whether sellers need to close quickly, have private equity interests, environmental or other challenges, AIC Ventures can help. For more information, visit www.AICVentures.com.

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