



**Contact:** Melissa Anthony  
anthonyBarnum Public Relations  
Tel: 512-329-2766  
[Melissa@anthonyBarnum.com](mailto:Melissa@anthonyBarnum.com)

## **AIC Ventures Acquires Wisconsin Cheeseman Distribution Warehouses**

*- Leading private equity firm leverages sale-leaseback for term debt repayment -*

**AUSTIN, TX December 18** – AIC Ventures, an investment fund manager providing alternative finance solutions to middle-market companies across the United States, acquired a production and distribution facility totaling 238,500-square-foot from The Wisconsin Cheeseman<sup>®</sup>, Inc. AIC Ventures acquired the food gift company's facility for an undisclosed amount.

In 2007, Monroe Equity Partners LLC, and its co-investor, Acuity Capital Partners acquired The Wisconsin Cheeseman Inc. for an undisclosed amount. The Wisconsin Cheeseman, Inc. is a leading producer and multi-channel marketer of food gifts and gift components.

The Company, headquartered in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, does business through several well-known brands serving distinct markets including: Scott's, Mille Lacs Gourmet Foods, The Wisconsin Cheeseman and 1800foodgifts.com.

"We were impressed by how the AIC team stepped up and did everything we asked of them," said Justin Heyman, partner, Acuity Capital Partners.

"I look forward to being a strong partner with AIC for years to come." said Zia Uddin, partner, Monroe Equity Partners. "The smooth execution of this sale-leaseback has helped us monetize asset value and focus on long-term growth for The Wisconsin Cheeseman Inc."

AIC Ventures simultaneously entered into a long-term lease with The Wisconsin Cheeseman Inc. on the facility; operations in the facilities will not be disrupted as a result of the property acquisition.



“We saw this as the perfect opportunity to gain strategic assets and to help Monroe Equity Partners and Acuity Capital Partners achieve their financial goals for the company,” said David Steinwedell, managing partner, AIC Ventures. “We’re excited about the outcome for The Wisconsin Cheeseman Inc. and the opportunity to enhance our portfolio.”

### **About AIC Ventures**

AIC Ventures is a leading provider of capital to middle-market companies. With over \$800 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 27 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](http://www.AICVentures.com).

### **About The Wisconsin Cheeseman®, Inc.**

Based in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, The Wisconsin Cheeseman® is a leading mail order food gift company. The Company specializes in handcrafted quality gift baskets and gift towers, gourmet food baskets, candy, seasonal products and other specialty gift products. The Wisconsin Cheeseman's Inc. chocolates and cheeses have received awards at both the state and national level. For more information, visit [www.wisconsincheeseman.com](http://www.wisconsincheeseman.com).

### **About Monroe Equity Partners LLC**

With offices in Phoenix and Chicago, Monroe Equity Partners ("MEP") is a private equity firm focusing on providing investments to middle market companies throughout the United States and Canada. Investment products include equity, mezzanine or junior capital, acquisitions of distressed debt, senior and junior secured debt and bridge loans. MEP has a flexible investment approach and has the ability to close and fund transactions quickly. For more information, visit [www.monroeequity.com](http://www.monroeequity.com).

###