San Joaquin Angels Offers Funding for Local Entrepreneurs

(Stockton, CA)--The San Joaquin Angels (SJA), a newly formed angel capital investment group focusing on start-up and early stage companies in the San Joaquin County region, is seeking proposals for funding from local entrepreneurs. SJA is headquartered in Stockton, California.

The mission of the SJA is to enhance economic development in the region through the financing and growth of local businesses, while providing attractive investment opportunities for its members. Angel investors typically provide the first outside equity capital for small start-up companies. These companies are often not eligible for other sources of funding, because they are too early stage to have much in the way of profits or collateral. Angel investment generally provides the financing needed to enable a company to develop sufficiently to qualify for additional sources of financing. Angel investors typically receive a portion of the ownership of the business in exchange for their investment.

SJA is an outgrowth of the strategic plan for regional economic development developed by the San Joaquin Partnership, a public-private partnership organization charged with stimulating economic development in San Joaquin County. SJA has been organized by a group of local business, government and educational leaders committed to helping local businesses develop. In addition to its appeal to local investors, the program has generated interest among governmental agencies intrigued by its economic development potential and has received support from San Joaquin County; the cities of Stockton, Tracy, Lodi, Lathrop and Ripon; the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley; and the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration.

Companies interested in seeking funds from the SJA should submit an executive summary of their business plan through the SJA web site, at sanjoaquinangels.com. The web site also contains information on how to write a business plan and the criteria used for reviewing these. Those companies meeting the SJA’s screening requirements will have an opportunity to present their plans to the group at a future meeting. The first of these in scheduled for the evening of May 28, 2008. Six meetings per year are planned. Applicants interested in presenting at the May 28 meeting are required to submit their business plans by April 28, 2008.

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