

NexGen News Alert

Lee W. Mercer, former NASBIC President Joins NexGen Capital Partners Council of Senior Advisors

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS (April 21, 2009) - NexGen Capital Partners, LLC (**NCP**) announced today that **Lee W. Mercer** has agreed to serve as a Senior Advisor to NCP and its subsidiaries NexGen Strategic Advisors, LLC (**NSA**) and NexGen Strategic Investors, LLC (**NSI**).

From 1996 through 2008, Lee served as President of the National Association of Small Business Investment Companies (**NASBIC**), and continues as a consultant to the organization. He was the principal liaison for NASBIC to Congress, the Executive Branch and other industry organizations and the author and editor of all NASBIC position papers and congressional testimony. He is widely credited with the transformation of NASBIC into the highly professional, effective organization that it is today.

The Small Business Investment Company (**SBIC**) program was created by Congress in 1958 to help U.S. small businesses meet their requirements for equity and debt capital. SBICs are government licensed and government regulated, but privately managed venture or private equity funds that invest combinations of private and U.S. government guaranteed capital. Since 1958, SBICs have invested more than \$50 billion in more than 102,000 small U.S. companies. Of the total, \$39.5 billion was invested during Lee's tenure as President of NASBIC, a third of the government-guaranteed capital made available to the SBIC program. Many well-known U.S. companies received early financing from SBICs, including Intel, Apple Computer, Callaway Golf, Whole Foods Market, Palm Computing, Staples, Quiznos, Federal Express, Outback Steakhouse, Costco, Mothers Work, and Build-A-Bear Workshop.

"SBIC-oriented, structured investment products are at the core of the NexGen strategy and Lee knows as much about SBICs as anyone in the U.S.," said Lawrence C. Manson, Jr., Senior Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of NSA and NSI and principal of NCP. "His reputation is extraordinary and his guidance will serve us well." Prior to joining NASBIC, Lee worked in both the private and public sectors. On the private side he has held positions as a law firm partner, a senior government program manager for Digital Equipment Corporation and as president of two privately owned small businesses.

"Small businesses supply over half the new jobs in America and small business growth will lead us out of this recession," said Mary A. Laraia, Senior Managing Director of NSA and NSI and principal of NCP. "Lee is a true powerhouse in this field, and we at NexGen are thrilled to have him on our team."

During his career, Lee has served as a director of several private companies and as a member of several high level government advisory boards. Lee received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Dartmouth College and his Juris Doctorate and Master of Laws degrees from the Boston University School of Law. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1966 to 1968.

About NexGen Capital Partners, LLC

NCP offers investment and advisory services to community financial institutions and their corporate clients through its wholly-owned subsidiaries NexGen Strategic Investors, LLC and NexGen Strategic Advisors, LLC, respectively.

About NexGen Strategic Investors, LLC

NSI, a registered investment advisor licensed in the State of Illinois, has developed several proprietary structured investment products for a range of institutional investors, including community financial institutions, which should provide them with appropriate risk diversification, higher relative returns and targeted community development exposure.

About NexGen Strategic Advisors, LLC

NSA assists businesses in meeting their strategic and financial objectives by offering a selective range of services. Specifically, NSA targets community financial institutions and their middle-market corporate clients. Success in providing advice and transaction execution requires vision, commitment, integrity, teamwork and experience. We combine these elements to create value for our clients.

About the NexGen Council of Senior Advisors

NCP has established a Council of Senior Advisors comprised of seasoned professionals in banking, investment, management, compliance and community development to consult and advise in connection with the ongoing business of NCP and its subsidiaries. All advisors serve pursuant to a Senior Advisor Agreement with NCP and do not have any decision making or executive authority, nor do they have any fiduciary duties to NCP or its subsidiaries.