

Venture Capital Deals

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A symposium of venture capitalists to be held next week in Mountain View intends to shift its focus for the evening from the next big thing in the high-tech world to one of the older businesses on earth: real estate.

"Although the real estate market is undergoing a slump in many parts of the U.S., the prices of both residential and commercial properties show no such trends in the Silicon Valley, some other parts of the country, and in many emerging markets overseas," Gadi Behar, founder and managing director of **Silicom Ventures**, said in a statement publicizing the event.

"Given that the economic cycle of real estate can offset the high-tech cycle, one wonders if now is a good time to diversify and invest in real estate," Behar said.

Silicom Ventures, a forum founded in 1999 to link investors with entrepreneurs, says it is made up of venture capital and angel investors who are also high-tech executives at "leading companies."

The symposium will be held in the Mountain View offices of **KPMG**, a co-sponsor of the event, from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 15. The cost: \$200, in advance. (Add \$50 at the door.) A buffet dinner is included. Register online at www.silicomventures.com.

Recent fundings

Pure Digital Technologies of San Francisco, a maker of digital video products and one-time-use digital cameras, said last week it raised \$40 million in a round co-led by **AllianceBernstein** and **Morgan Stanley Principal Investments**. **Heights Capital Management** and existing investors **Sequoia Capital**, **Benchmark Capital**, **Focus Ventures**, **Crescendo Ventures**, **Steamboat Ventures**, **VantagePoint Venture Partners** and **Samsung Ventures** also participated in the round. Pure Digital was represented in the transaction by **Savvian**, an investment bank in San Francisco.

At the same time the company launched its Flip Video line of pocket-size camcorders featuring built-in software designed to make it easier to capture, edit and share video.

Pure Digital distributes its image-processing technology through a network of retail servers with image and video processing capabilities in one-hour processing locations in stores such as Target, Longs Drugs, Rite Aid Drug Stores and Ritz/Wolf Camera Centers.

OpVista raised \$15 million in a round led by **ComVentures**, with existing investors also participating. This brings total company funding in OpVista so far to \$90 million. OpVista develops optical transport systems to boost network capacity to help cable and telecommunication firms meet growing demand for high-bandwidth video. The company, founded in 2000, relocated from Irvine and is now based in Milpitas.

Sonopia of Menlo Park raised \$12.7 million in a second round of funding led by **Cardinal Venture Capital**. Previous investors **Sevin Rosen Funds, ComVentures** and unnamed individuals from the credit card and mobile communications industries also invested in the round.

Sonopia provides services designed to allow groups, clubs, families and individuals the opportunity to "become a mobile carrier in a matter of minutes," including branded handsets, tailored user interfaces and even content.

The company says it works with non-profit organizations and brands, including the National Wildlife Federation, the American Medical Student Association and the National Parks Conservation Association, among others.

Aprius of Sunnyvale, a start-up in the high-speed computer-interconnect field, said Friday that it raised \$11 million in a first venture round of funding co-led by **Lightspeed Venture Partners** and **New Enterprise Associates**.

Aprius was founded in June 2006 by three former Intel employees who previously founded LightLogic, a maker of devices used to convert optical signals into digital ones that was acquired by Intel in 2001.