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Technology Company GRIDSTORE Completes €1.5 million Funding Round

Gridstore, the Irish innovation leader in enterprise-class Network Attached Storage grid (NASg) solutions, has completed a €1.5m seed funding round, which was led by the Ulster Bank Diageo Venture Fund, managed by NCB Ventures.

Other investors include Enterprise Ireland and a small number of Irish private investors. The investment will be used to fund further product development and to generate sales in its target market in the US. The Company has established its US presence in Mountain View, Silicon Valley that will focus on channel development and sales.

Founded in 2007 by Kelly Murphy, Antoni Sawicki and Tomasz Nowak, Gridstore has developed a new generation of low cost data storage based on a grid concept. The product is designed to bridge the gap between the high cost of enterprise class systems and the performance, scaling and reliability limitations of fixed capacity storage (network attached storage). Gridstore's Chairman is former Iona founder, CEO and chairman, Chris Horn. Sean Baker, his co-founder in Iona, also serves as a director of Gridstore.

Kelly Murphy, Co-founder and CEO of Gridstore said: "We're delighted to secure this investment from the Ulster Bank Diageo Venture Fund which will allow us to start rolling out our unique data storage solution in the United States where we believe it has massive potential. Our strategy is to target the Small and Medium Business market where our approach and technology allows SMBs to combine an unlimited number of low cost storage units into a fault tolerant, high performance and highly scalable storage system. Critically, the cost of our solution is up to 10 times lower than current enterprise class systems. Gridstore puts enterprise class, scale-out storage in reach of SMBs for the first time."

John Dolan of NCB Ventures said: "Gridstore has developed an innovative data storage solution that addresses a large market demand for reliable scalable storage at an affordable level. Data storage is one of the most attractive growth sectors within IT with demand for storage capacity growing at 50% per annum. We're very pleased to be investing in an Irish company that has the product, vision and team to tap into this target market."

Chris Horn, Chairman of Gridstore and member of the Irish Government's Innovation Taskforce said: "Gridstore is an example of the type of company which the Irish innovation economy can deliver. It is very encouraging to see an Irish venture capital fund, the Ulster Bank Diageo Venture Fund, and Enterprise Ireland support the expansion of Gridstore, which I believe is set to become a global success story."

Gridstore introduced its first test product to the market in December 2009 and sold its first systems to customers in July 2010. Last month, its solution won a "Best in Show" award in the "Best SMB Solution" category at the prestigious ITEXPO West 2010 in Los Angeles.

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About GridStore

Gridstore is the innovation leader in enterprise-class Network Attached Storage grid (NASg) products. NASg provides unlimited storage capacity and reliability at a fraction of the cost of traditional storage solutions. NASg is designed for small-to-mid-sized businesses and Managed Service Providers who struggle with the risk, cost and complexity of storage sprawl and who need enterprise class storage without the cost and complexity. Founded in Dublin in 2007, Gridstore has established a US presence in Mountain View, Silicon Valley that will focus on channel development and sales. For more information, please visit: <http://www.gridstore.com>

About NCB Ventures (www.ncb-ventures.com):

NCB Ventures, the venture capital arm of NCB Group, manages the €75 million Ulster Bank Diageo Venture Fund established in 2008 under the Enterprise Ireland Seed and Venture Capital Programme 2007-2012. The Ulster Bank Diageo Venture Fund invests €1 million - €5 million in Irish companies across a range of sectors and all stages of development and, to date, has invested in seven companies AMCS, Terminal Four Solutions, Xtra-vision, Zamano, HeyStaks, Ferfics and Gridstore.

NCB Ventures has €94 million under management and has invested in 32 Irish businesses taking them from early stages of development through to trade sale and IPO. NCB Group is one of Ireland's largest independent investment firms focusing on institutional equities, wealth management, corporate finance and venture capital.