

Midven upbeat after further exit

Leading West Midlands based venture capital company, Midven, has announced another excellent return on one of its investment.

Despite the continuing poor economic climate, Midven are pleased to announce the achievement of a second substantial realisation in 2009 for the HSBC UK Enterprise Fund for the Midlands.

The Fund has completed a realisation of its investment in Autochair Limited, an Alfreton based provider of innovative driving aids to people with disabilities.

Under the terms of the transaction the HSBC UK Enterprise Fund for the Midlands has achieved a two times return on its original investment and an IRR of 15%.

The deal follows hot on the heels of the Fund completing a full exit from Malvern Tyres earlier this year achieving an IRR of 18% over a nine year period of investment.

At the time of the Fund's investment in 1999, Autochair had a growing reputation built upon its initial product range of vehicle-mounted hoists. Autochair has continually invested over the past ten years, increasing and improving its product range, expanding into new premises, and becoming the UK distributor for a number of European manufacturers.

Mathew Walker, the company's Managing Director said: "It has been a pleasure working with Midven over the past ten years, as the company has taken a number of leaps forward which we may not have had the confidence to do without their support. We are now assisting more people than ever before to become independently mobile."

The company's sales have quadrupled in the period that the Fund has been an investor, and the number of staff employed by the business has increased from 11 to 31. It is now one of the UK's leading vehicle adaptation specialists.

Tony Stott, Midven Managing Director commented, "We help companies with their growth building substantial businesses that are able to weather the current economic storm. This exit is another demonstration of our ability to not only make significant numbers of investment investments but also achieve profitable exits for the partners in our funds, throughout the economic cycle."

Midven Limited
16 October 2009

EDITORS' NOTES

- Midven Limited is a privately-owned company with a successful track record of investing in small and medium-sized enterprises in the Midlands. It manages a variety of funds and has invested in various sectors, including software, biotechnology, healthcare, engineering, manufacturing and distribution.
- The £6.5million HSBC Enterprise Fund for the Midlands was launched in 1992 by HSBC to invest venture capital in small and medium-sized companies in the West and East Midlands. Managed by Midven Limited, its investors include HSBC and the European Investment Bank.
- For further information contact Tony Stott, Midven Limited – 0121 710 1990