

CDC Snaps up MVI Technology
Birmingham Post – December 2006

Birmingham-based software development company MVI Technology has been snapped up by CDC Software, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the US-based CDC Corporation for an undisclosed sum.

Birmingham lawyers BPE advised on the deal.

MVI Technology develops real time performance management (RPM) software for the food and beverage, pharmaceutical and chemicals industries.

Its software allows manufacturers to merge automated shop floor data, quality process control and manufacturing, continuous improvement and quality control strategies.

MVI's chief executive officer Mark Sutcliffe said the synergy of the takeover was compelling.

Joining CDC Software, such a major player in the enterprise software markets, gives us a tremendous opportunity to serve customers worldwide," he said. "Our team is the best in the industry and I believe we are undisputed thought-leaders in real-time performance, for food producers, offering a real competitive edge through a direct return on investment for our customers.

"I'm confident MVI solutions will continue to create one of the most cost-effective and comprehensive business improvement tools for our target industries."

The sale represents the most successful exit to date for the Advantage Growth Fund, the venture capital fund launched by Advantage West Midlands to invest in small and medium sized companies in the region.

Led by Midven, which manages the fund, an investment of £250,000 was made in October 2005.

Midven also introduced John Caines, a seasoned enterprise software investor, who invested alongside Midven and joined the MVI board as non executive chairman.

The new capital enabled MVI to build on the success it had already achieved with customers such as Berner Foods and Abbyland Foods.

Highlights this year include several multi-plant sales, including the industry's largest ever single order for RPM package software – a \$1 million-plus (£512,820) software contract from international foods producer, Greencore – as well as an eight-plant sale to the \$1.4billion (£717.9 million) Premier Foods Corporation.

Midven investment director Tony Stott said: "The quality of the opportunity was instrumental in Midven completing the transaction quickly last year, and attracting additional external investment.

"Twelve months on, and MVI has provided the most successful exit to date for the Advantage Growth Fund.

"We are delighted that the price paid by CDC Corporation fully reflects MVI's market leading products and outstanding growth prospects."