

# VC firm invests in wind energy

Space Center Ventures Inc. made its first investment in the wind-energy industry, acquiring a stake in Midwest Wind Finance.

Paul Knapp, CEO of Space Center Ventures, declined to reveal how much money the firm invested. However, the Roseville venture capital firm typically makes investments of just under \$500,000, he said.

Minneapolis-based Midwest Wind Finance helps farmers and other landowners pull together down payments on turbines they need to get wind farms up and running. It closed on the first \$5 million for a fund it needs to jump-start the \$500 million worth of wind-power projects it has under contract or through verbal agreements.

The company plans to use funding from Space Center Ventures for working capital. Knapp will join the firm's board of directors.

## **MIDWEST WIND FINANCE**

CEO: Ken Valley

City: Minneapolis

Business: Financing for community-scale wind farms

Web site: [www.mwwind.com](http://www.mwwind.com)