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## **CRATON EQUITY PARTNERS**

### **MAKES FIRST INVESTMENT IN GIGACRETE**

Craton Equity Partners ([cratonep.com](http://cratonep.com)), the new Los Angeles, California based clean technology private equity fund, has announced that it has made its first investment of \$3.5 million (of a \$5 million commitment) in GigaCrete, Inc. ([gigacrete.com](http://gigacrete.com)), a green building materials company that has created a new family of cementitious building products that are lightweight, stronger and more environmentally friendly than Portland cement-based materials.

"We decided to make our first investment in GigaCrete because we believe it has the potential to be a leader in the green building materials industry, which has become a fast growing component of the clean-tech business sector," said Craton Equity Partners Managing Partner Tom Soto. "Clean-tech is not just fuels and energy; it's also sustainable building products and systems, and GigaCrete represents the future of that field."

"GigaCrete has created a revolutionary new line of products that are lighter and more fire and ballistic-resistant than other traditional cement-based building materials," said Craton Equity Partners Managing Partner Bob MacDonald. "GigaCrete products have many applications, from housing and office buildings to defense and homeland security. Green building materials now represent 6% of the clean-tech market, double their share just three years ago, and we believe that GigaCrete can play a leading role in this growing field."

"This investment from Craton provides us with both the capital and business savvy to help build out our business plan and accelerate our growth significantly," said Erik Hanson, GigaCrete's Chief Executive Officer.

"Craton understands why we developed our product and how it fits into the rapidly expanding market for sustainable building materials," said Andrew Dennis, Chairman of GigaCrete and developer of the original GigaCrete concept. "We expect tremendous growth in the green building materials sector, and Craton's backing will help us take a leading role in delivering important new products."

Craton Equity Partners (formerly Paladin Private Equity) is a Los Angeles based private equity fund with a strategic focus on investment in new, small, environmentally focused clean technology companies. Clean-tech businesses are now the sixth largest investment category in the United States (behind information technology, software, biotech, health care and telecommunications). Craton is the Greek word for strength; in English it is the word for a large, undisturbed portion of a continental plate. The managing partners are Tom Soto, who has worked on environmental regulatory matters for 20 years, matching clean technologies to financing, and Bob MacDonald, who is one of the leading private equity managers in Los Angeles and the founder of Catalyst Energy, the first renewable-based independent power producer.

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