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## Banking & Finance

# Mesbic Ventures Holding crafts area's biggest VC deals

Dallas Business Journal - by [Rusty Cawley](#)

Metroplex-based venture capital funds took part in 14 deals that placed nearly \$61.2 million during the fourth quarter of 1998, according to the Price-waterhouseCoopers Money Tree Survey.

That's down considerably from the \$119.8 million that local VC firms invested during third quarter 1998. Comparison figures from fourth quarter 1997 were not immediately available.

Mesbic Ventures Holding Co. of Dallas struck more VC deals than did any other local firm, placing a total of \$1.83 million spread over six transactions.

During the fourth quarter, Mesbic placed \$150,000 with Innogenex Inc., a medical research firm in San Ramon, Calif.; \$163,000 with Citywide Communications, a radio-station owner in Baton Rouge, La.; \$414,000 with Perpetua, a funeral-home manager in Jacksonville, Fla.; \$389,000 with Simeus Holdings Inc., a food services company in Mansfield; \$500,000 with McDonald Technologies International Inc., a circuit-board manufacturer in Carrollton; and \$217,000 with Omega Contractor Inc., a construction firm in Grand Prairie.

Along with sister fund Pacesetter Growth Fund L.P., Mesbic focuses on making investments in companies that are owned and operated by minority entrepreneurs.

Pacesetter Growth Fund teamed up with Mesbic on the Perpetua deal, then placed \$2.65 million with Vista Stores L.L.C., a convenience-store chain based in Dallas.