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Fla. Opportunity Fund gives \$4M to VC firm

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The Florida Opportunity Fund has committed \$4 million to **Harbert Venture Partners** — a regional venture capital firm with offices in Gainesville, Birmingham and Richmond, Va. — to focus on startup opportunities in the state.

Harbert focuses on states with significant research activity and technology development potential.

“This commitment reinforces our strategy for investing in the state and establishing an office here that can give us greater access to Florida’s seasoned entrepreneurs and innovative new companies,” said John Uhrin, a partner with Harbert.

With the latest investment, the Florida Opportunity Fund has committed \$16 million of the state’s \$29.5 million fund established by the Florida Legislature and Orlando-based Enterprise Florida.

“By leveraging the state’s investments with local, regional and national venture firms known for developing Florida startups into industry-leading companies, there is great potential to achieve our objectives for revitalizing the economy,” said Jennifer Dunham of Florida First Partners, manager of the state program.

Harbert Venture Partners primarily invests in early-stage information technology and health care companies in the Southeast. Its Florida portfolio includes the Gainesville-based NovaMin Technologies, which designs health products.

Besides Harbert Venture Partners, Florida Opportunity Fund commitments also have been made to national venture capital group Element Partners, Orlando-based **Inflexion Partners** and **New Enterprise Associates**.

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