

Weather Trends Raises \$750K In Angel Funding After Buying Back VC Stake

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By Timothy Hay

Weather Trends International Inc., a company with a mobile application to predict weather as much as a year in advance, has raised \$750,000 in angel funding since buying back a 66% stake in the company that had been held by Kodiak Venture Partners.

The funding was provided by Trestle Ventures, Innovation Capital and three individual investors, Chief Executive Bill Kirk said.

Kirk--who spent years in the Air Force predicting weather for pilots about to fly missions--has run Weather Trends as a business-to-business operation since 2002, predicting weather for customers including JP Morgan Chase and Co., Merrill Lynch and Co. and CitiGroup Inc., Kirk said.

Financial professionals factor in the weather as they make long-term economic predictions, Kirk said. The firms jumped on board after Weather Trends proved to WalMart Stores Inc.--its first customer--it could accurately predict atmospheric conditions.

Now, after reaching profitability with these customers, the company has released a 99-cent mobile application for the iPhone that lets any user predict long-term weather patterns.

In 2006, Weather Trends raised a \$5.5 million Series A round from Kodiak Venture Partners, but several years later bought back its stake, Kirk said. Founders currently hold 85% of the company, he said, declining to give a valuation.

An attempt to reach Kodiak was not immediately successful.

Weather Trends predicts the weather with "5.4 million lines of code, and quadrillions of calculations," Kirk said.

<http://www.wxtrends.com>