

Low Cost Legal Support for Start-ups Through “Series Seed” Service

March 2010 – A new service, called [Series Seed Documents](#), became available this month. Backed by former entrepreneurs-turned-venture capitalists Marc Andreessen and Ben Horowitz, the service is meant to simplify and focus legal documentation around the formation of new companies. “Series Seed Documents”, as the resources are called, have been created to reduce costs and ensure basic, stage-appropriate requirements are met, while deferring more time intensive, costly, and not-yet-necessary elements for later in the company’s development. These documents are considerably shorter and simpler than typical status quo investment documents, designed to keep the most essential terms for the transaction and postpone the other terms for a later fundraising round where such an investment would be warranted. A more detailed description of the content of these documents and rationale behind them can be found [here](#).

In short, the new system is supposed to help start-ups work out the terms of their initial financing without running up big legal bills. It provides a template covering the basic issues that typically arise when entrepreneurs are trying to raise less than \$1 million. The goal is to minimize the need for legal advice so start-ups will have more money to spend on mission-critical requirements - developing and launching new products and services.

“Because these open-source documents are transparent and standard, any angel or VC or entrepreneur can pick them up without having anything complicated or mysterious happen,” Andreessen told Private Equity Hub in an interview. “They’ll cost (everyone) far less in legal fees, too.” ([For the full interview at PEHub, click here.](#)) The following investors have agreed to use the Series Seed Documents in certain of their deals: Baseline, Charles River Ventures, SV Angel (Ron Conway), First Round Capital, Harrison Metal Capital, Mike Maples, Polaris Ventures, SoftTech VC and True Ventures.

Andreessen is best known as a co-founder of Netscape Communications, whose graphical Web browser and initial public offering of stock ignited the dot-com boom in the mid-1990s. Based on Local Tech Wire article.