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South Highland Ventures Announces Inaugural Investment in Alumistar, Parent Company of Pacific Cast Products and Performance Aluminum Products

Bill Balliette to lead founder-owned Southern California aluminum alloy casting company serving aerospace, defense, industrial, and commercial end markets

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — September 18, 2026 — South Highland Ventures ("SHV") today announced that SHV ETA Fund I, LP has completed its inaugural investment as part of the acquisition of Alumistar, parent company of Pacific Cast Products and Performance Aluminum Products, a founder-owned Ontario, California-based aluminum alloy casting company serving customers across aerospace, defense, industrial, and commercial end markets.

Alumistar represents the type of established lower middle market business SHV ETA Fund I was formed to support: a profitable operating company with specialized manufacturing capabilities, a longstanding customer base, and an opportunity to transition leadership while preserving the legacy built by the prior ownership group. The company's specialized aluminum alloy casting capabilities, long-standing customer relationships, and exposure to aerospace, defense, industrial, and commercial markets align well with SHV's investment strategy of backing experienced operators acquiring durable lower middle market businesses.

The investment was made alongside Novastone Partners US, which served as lead investor in the transaction. Bill Balliette, who was supported by Novastone Capital Advisors through its operator-led acquisition platform, will assume the role of Chief Executive Officer of Alumistar.

"Businesses like Alumistar are exactly why we created SHV ETA Fund I," said Ron Ondechek Jr., Managing Partner of South Highland Ventures. "The company has built a strong reputation over more than two decades, serves attractive end markets, and now has an experienced operator in Bill Balliette to lead its next chapter. We believe thoughtful ownership transitions like this create long-term value for employees, customers, and investors alike."

"I am honored to lead Alumistar into its next chapter and build on the foundation created by the company's founders and employees," said Bill Balliette, incoming Chief Executive Officer of Alumistar. "The business has developed an outstanding reputation with its customers, and I look forward to working with the entire team as we continue growing the company while preserving the legacy that has made Alumistar successful."

Balliette brings more than 30 years of leadership experience across metal machining, manufacturing, metal forming, and aerospace industries, positioning him well to lead Alumistar's next phase of growth.

The investment marks an important milestone for SHV ETA Fund I following the Fund's first close and reflects the firm's strategy of partnering with experienced operators to acquire and grow established lower middle market businesses navigating ownership succession. SHV continues to evaluate additional operator-led acquisition opportunities across its target sectors.

About South Highland Ventures

South Highland Ventures is a San Antonio-based investment firm focused on operator-led acquisitions of profitable lower middle market businesses navigating ownership succession transitions. Through SHV ETA Fund I, LP, the firm targets founder-owned and family-owned companies generating between \$2 million and \$10 million in EBITDA across a range of industries. South Highland Ventures combines institutional investment discipline with hands-on operational expertise through its operating partner model, supporting experienced executives in acquiring, operating, and growing enduring businesses.

About Alumistar

Alumistar, the parent company of Pacific Cast Products and Performance Aluminum Products, is an Ontario, California-based aluminum alloy casting company serving customers across aerospace, defense, industrial, and commercial end markets. The company provides specialized casting capabilities for customers requiring precision, reliability, and manufacturing expertise.

About Novastone Partners US

Novastone Partners US is the exclusive Fund Advisor to the NP Operator-led Buyout US Fund. The fund targets succession-driven buyouts of established lower middle market businesses across the United States and invests exclusively in acquisitions sourced through Novastone Capital Advisors, supporting seamless ownership transitions and long-term value creation.

About Novastone Capital Advisors

Novastone Capital Advisors supports experienced operators in identifying, acquiring, and operating established businesses through an entrepreneurship through acquisition model. The firm works with operators and investors to support successful ownership transitions in the lower middle market.

For more information, visit <https://shvllc.com>.

Important Information

This press release is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities. Any offering of interests in SHV ETA Fund I, LP is made solely pursuant to formal offering documents and is available only to qualified investors.