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## **New World Angels Begin 2018 with \$1.3MM Investment in Clarke Series B**

*Follows seven investments totaling \$4.4MM in 2017*

BOCA RATON, FL (February 6, 2018) – New World Angels (NWA), Florida’s premier structured angel investment group, announced today its first transaction of 2018 with a \$1.3MM investment into Clarke Industrial Engineering’s \$10MM Series B Preferred Stock offering. Miami and Rhode Island based Clarke is the innovator and manufacturer of the Shuttervalve which is invigorating the \$84 Billion valve industry with new performance features at lower costs. This was NWA’s fifth investment into Clarke and now NWA has invested over \$4.1MM in Clarke. The Series B round was led by Saudi Aramco Energy Ventures and Chevron-Texaco Technology Ventures.

This follows a record year for NWA when it made seven investments totaling \$4.4MM into seven companies in 2017. NWA added four new companies and made three additional investments into existing portfolio companies. In Q1, NWA invested a combined \$1,487,500 in existing portfolio companies Tao Connect, a Tampa based online counseling solution for universities and private payers, and Clarke’s A-3 round.

In Q2, NWA invested in three new companies a combined total of \$1,985,000. These were: 1) RecordGram, a Miami based innovative software solution provider allowing artists and musicians to collaborate on-line to provide greater opportunity to starting performers, 2) Source Molecular, a Miami based DNA based water analysis company helping municipalities and utilities test and understand water pollution challenges, and 3) Rewired Solutions, a Sarasota based human resource solution provider for large employers seeking to identify potential new hires. Also in Q2, NWA invested another \$347,500 into its portfolio company Kairos, a Miami based software as a service human analytics platform.

After summer hurricanes interrupted third quarter operations for a few weeks, in Q4 NWA funded another new company Switchboard Live with \$557,500. Orlando based Switchboard provides a live broadcast streaming alternative for publishers to cover up to 31 outlets simultaneously with a few simple clicks.

Steve O’Hara, president of NWA noted, “We are delighted to continue to support Clarke’s disruptive expansion into the high performance industrial valve market. We are very pleased that the venture capital arms of industry leaders Saudi Aramco and Chevron also recognize Clarke’s potential in this \$84B market. We remain committed to helping Clarke achieve its lofty goals.

Commenting on 2017, O’Hara continued, “Our engaged membership has allowed us to increase our investment rate. Almost all of NWA’s 65 members participated on at least one due diligence team in 2017 and many are engaged in helping existing portfolio companies meet the challenges of start-up businesses. Our “not so secret sauce” is our diverse collection of members ranging from doctors to CEOs, lawyers to entrepreneurs, and technology to old school manufacturers which provides us with a stable of talent we can offer our portfolio entrepreneurs to call on for advice and counsel. The willingness of NWA members to invest their time and talent, as well as their money, increases the odds of success for the start-ups which we fund.”

**About New World Angels:**

New World Angels (NWA) is a group of 65 accredited, private investors, operators and entrepreneurs dedicated to providing equity capital and guidance to early-stage entrepreneurial companies with a strong presence in Florida. Members of NWA have extensive experience in founding, building, and managing companies in a wide variety of industries. NWA members are involved in the entrepreneurial communities from Miami to Jupiter on Florida’s east coast and from Naples to Tampa on Florida’s west coast. Since 2014, NWA has invested \$14MM in growing US and international companies that either are based in Florida or have a strong presence in the state. In addition to providing funding, NWA members make their expertise and resource networks available to portfolio companies to facilitate a company’s growth.

**About Clarke Industrial Engineering:**

Clarke Industrial Engineering is the marketer and producer of Shuttervalve, a patented high-performance valve which is the first valve in the world to simultaneously offer precision flow control, zero pressure drop and zero leakage. Founded by Kyle Daniels and initially funded by NWA in 2014, the Shuttervalve now has blue chip customers in the gas, water, power, paper, and chemical industries and, along with licensing partner Curtiss-Wright, is entering the defense and nuclear industries. With sales, marketing and finance functions in Miami and with engineering and operations in Rhode Island, Clarke has the team in place to service these industries and more.

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