

Selequity completes Creve Coeur real estate deal



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Mark Burkhart and AJ Chivetta founded Selequity after leaving Cassidy Turley.

Selequity, the St. Louis-based startup that's developed a crowdfunding platform geared toward real estate investors, has raised \$2.58 million.

That money, raised by seven investors in a private offering that closed July 6, according to a filing with the SEC, will be used to buy a stake in the 75,000-square-foot Creve Coeur Plaza shopping center at 790 New Ballas Road., which has tenants such as Five Guys Burgers and Fries and First Watch.

The property, according to St. Louis County property records, has an appraised value of \$7.3 million and is owned by Creve Coeur Plaza Associates, a limited liability company with a registered agent listed as [Thomas Martin](#).

The shopping center is the first project funded through Selequity, which publicly launched earlier this year and connects investors to real estate opportunities. Another private test project, which has yet to close, is in process for an office building in Dallas.

Selequity was founded by [Mark Burkhart](#), former CEO of Cassidy Turley; Bill Florent, former CFO of Cassidy Turley; and AJ Chivetta and [Maria Desloge](#) of [Armstrong Teasdale](#), both members of Cassidy Turley's legal team.

That founding group, along with [Armstrong Teasdale](#), has invested more than \$2 million in the venture.

Selequity is on schedule to launch with projects for accredited investors publicly by the end of the summer. Chivetta said the platform will likely launch with a handful of projects.

According to Massolution, a Los Angeles-based crowdsourcing research firm, real estate crowdfunding grew 156 percent in 2014 to more than \$1 billion. This year, that figure is expected to grow to \$2.57 billion globally, with U.S. commercial and industrial property crowdfunding expected to grow by 250 percent.

"It appears that alternative platforms are here to stay and are starting to nibble away, albeit limitdly, at the regulated banking segment," said [Steven Cinelli](#), senior fellow for Massolution research, in a real estate crowdfunding report. "Crowdfunding affords users and providers of new capital options."

Selequity also announced a new partnership with St. Louis-based Virtual Realty Enterprises (VRE), a commercial real estate lender that has managed more than \$500 million in assets, to

refer clients to each other and identify possible VRE investing projects. VRE will give Selequity users and project sponsors access to interim financing and an opportunity to fund larger deals moving forward.

“That relationship will offer our sponsors some flexibility and options,” Chivetta said.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/print-edition/2015/07/10/selequity-completes-creve-coeur-real-estate-deal.html>