

## Cash-Rich Oracle Scoops Up Bargains

***It's a buyer's market...*** Anyone who is sitting on a nest egg, big or small, cash, or IRA that has melted to a fraction of its value, needs to wake-up and take advantage of the exceptional investment opportunities now available to them for the first time....

While most Americans are pinching pennies, Larry Ellison is on a shopping spree. His software giant, Oracle, completed 10 acquisitions this past year, ranging from a maker of insurance-policy-writing tools, to a designer of software used by stores to maximize shelf space use. Mr. Ellison's last 10 deals combined cost less than \$750 million. A fraction of their real-time value amid the worst economy in a generation.



"Cash is king, queen, and the royal family" in a recession, said John Chambers, Cisco's chief executive, in a recent interview. Microsoft Corp. executive Chris Liddell said in a January conference call that **"buying opportunities have probably never been better."**

## Emerging Source for Private Equity

Based on an article By: Paul Hodkinson FEBRUARY 10, 2009

Despite the declining economy, **Private-Equity fund raising** -which is about equity investments in growing companies- **rose last year by 12% to \$553.8 billion**, up \$66.5 billion from the year prior.

*Alternative Investing*

## The Private-Money World Opens Up...

**Small investors now have more ways to win like the bigwigs.**

Based on an article By ELEANOR LAISE and IANTHE JEANNE DUGAN

**Small investors are getting new ways to invest like Wall Street bigwigs.** For a long time, the average investor has been shut out of one of the hottest sectors around: private money. This category usually takes a minimum investment of hundreds of thousands of dollars, beyond the reach of most individuals. Now, as little as \$35,000 provides the astute and savvy small investor a way into the club, **and the potential to recapture ill-fated "Market" losses.**



Peter and Maria Hoey

The appeal of private-money investments is simple: They tend to zig when the broad stock market zags, reducing a portfolio's overall risk and potentially boosting returns....The amount of money pouring into these investments is staggering. **Private-equity firms now control more than \$2 trillion world-wide outpacing major stock-market indexes by a wide margin**, according to Thomson Financial and the National Venture Capital Association.