

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

50 'COMPANIES TO WATCH' GET SOME APPLAUSE

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Fifty of the state's firms are receiving recognition for their continued growth and economic impact under the Arizona Small Business Association's "Arizona Companies to Watch" program.

The awards are designed to highlight the progress of second-stage firms, or those that are beyond the start-up phase, have \$1 million to \$100 million in annual revenue or working capital and 10 to 100 employees.

The companies will be honored at an awards event on June 1 at the Phoenix Convention Center.

The event is being hosted in collaboration with the Edward Lowe Foundation, a Cassopolis, Mich.-based organization that provides resources to entrepreneurs. BizAZ, a magazine owned by The Arizona Republic, is serving as the event's media sponsor.

This is the second year the Arizona Small Business Association has hosted the contest. Last year, the association recognized 50 early-stage firms, or start-up companies.

Five of this year's companies will also be spotlighted at the event for special achievements in various business areas.

The names of those firms have not yet been released.

"Companies like the Arizona Companies to Watch are one of the reasons that Arizona leads the country in economic growth," said Joan Koerber-Walker, chief executive officer of the Small Business Association. "Through the efforts of great employees who deliver innovative products and services, these companies are growing at over four times the national average."

The 50 companies come from 10 cities and span retail, manufacturing, transportation and warehousing, and other industries.

As of last year, the firms employed a combined 2,012 workers, a number that is expected to jump to 2,532 this year.

Arizona Companies to Watch

Here are the 50 firms receiving recognition from the Arizona Small Business Association:

* 95 and Sunny Inc., Mesa

* A Better Connection Inc.,

Gilbert

* Above and Beyond Delivery Inc., Chandler

* ADG Communication,

Glendale

* AdOn Network, Phoenix

* Arizona Environmental

Recycling LLC, Phoenix

* Bedmart, Tucson

* bluemia, Tempe

* Brignall Construction, Phoenix

* Chef's Planet LLC, Phoenix

* College Times Inc., Tempe

* **Creative Business Resources, Phoenix**

* Darling Environmental &

Surveying Ltd., Tucson

* DL Engineering & Controls Inc., Phoenix

* DuffyGroup Inc., Phoenix

* Dynamic Test Solutions Inc., Chandler

* Emergency Restoration

Experts Inc., Chandler

* Engenuity Systems Inc., Chandler

* Ephemian, Tucson

* Fox Systems Inc., Scottsdale

* Freedom Financial &

Mortgage Services Corp., Mesa

* Genesis Worldwide

Enterprises Inc., Cottonwood

* Global Solar Energy Inc.,

Tucson

* Global Water Resources LLC, Phoenix

* Infusion Software Inc., Gilbert

* Keats, Connelly and

Associates Inc., Phoenix

* LR Acquisitions Inc. dba Lyons Roofing, Phoenix

* Metal Magic, Phoenix

* Mountain Country Mortgage Inc., Flagstaff

* MSL Precision LLC, Mesa

* Net Fusion Corp., Phoenix

* Nextrio LLC, Tucson

* Parker Finch Management, Phoenix

* Partners Landscape Inc., Phoenix

* PerfectPower Inc., Phoenix

* Phoenix Staff Inc., Phoenix

* Polar Ice Entertainment Inc., Tempe

* Quadna Inc., Phoenix

* RDS Electric Inc., Glendale

* Rest Assured Inc., Phoenix

* Ribomed Biotechnologies Inc., Phoenix

* Santa Barbara Catering Co., Tempe

* Simply Bits LLC, Tucson

* Specialized Office Systems Inc., Phoenix

* Specialized Services

Company Inc., Phoenix

* The Lamar Everyday Spa, Scottsdale

* The Solar Store, Tucson

* Tierra Dynamic Company LLC, Phoenix

* Trillium Residential, Tempe

* Western National Bank,

Phoenix

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