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**FONA International named one of *Chicago's 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work For* and earns Elite Award for Work-Life Balance**

Geneva, IL, August 11 , 2009 - FONA International, creator and manufacturer of flavors and flavoring ingredients for the world's leading food, beverage and nutraceutical companies, was named one of *Chicago's 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work For* by the National Association for Business Resources (NABR) for the fourth year in a row. The company was also presented by NABR with the Elite Award for Work-Life Balance, recognizing such programs as summer hours, biggest loser competitions, generous leave policies and the opportunity to receive Thanksgiving bonuses as days off.

Joe Slawek, President & CEO of FONA International, said, "We are thrilled to have received this wonderful honor. We at FONA are dedicated to nurturing a growing, diverse, competent and connected workplace. We know it really is all of the very talented people who work here that make FONA a special place to be. I am grateful and indebted to everyone in our organization for focusing on creating a work environment where people can thrive and be successful."

The 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work For awards honor local companies that recognize employees as their greatest asset. Winners are selected by an independent market research company, which reviews an extensive amount of quantitative and qualitative data, and an independent panel of judges. Companies are evaluated based on their competency in the areas of communication, community initiatives, compensation and benefits, diversity and multi-culturalism, employee education and development, employee engagement and commitment, recognition and retention, recruitment and selection and work-life balance. As part of the process, employees at each nominated company are randomly selected to complete a confidential survey about their work environment.

The NABR explains that the winning companies are companies that work with imagination and conviction to create organizational value and business results through their policies and best practices in human resource management.

**ABOUT FONA INTERNATIONAL, INC.**

Founded in 1987, FONA International creates and manufactures flavors for some of the largest food, beverage, and nutraceutical companies in the world. It offers flavor solutions for the Confection, Grain, Dry Beverage, Liquid Beverage and Emerging Market segments through its state-of-the-art, 33-acre campus located in Geneva, Illinois. FONA is committed to excellence and has established a reputation as the forward thinking, independent solution provider in the very competitive flavor industry.

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