



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Record growth earns FONA a spot on INC. 5000 list of fastest-growing private companies in the country**

**GENEVA, IL August 20, 2008** – FONA International, creator and manufacturer of flavors and flavoring ingredients for the world’s leading food, beverage and nutraceutical companies, was named one of the fastest-growing private companies in the country by Inc. 5000 for the second consecutive year. FONA’s three-year sales growth of nearly 51% made it one of only 11 food and beverage companies in Illinois to receive this recognition.

“This is wonderful recognition of our commitment to development and growth, which is five times the standard in our industry,” said Joe Slawek, President & CEO of FONA International. “Our success is built on collaboration with our customers and employees and enables us to continue to serve them and our community in important ways.”

The Inc. 5000 list is the most comprehensive look at the most important segment of the economy – America’s independent-minded entrepreneurs. Taken as a whole, these 5,000 companies represent the backbone of the U.S. economy.

“Our second annual Inc. 5000 continues the most ambitious project in business journalism,” said Inc. 5000 Project Manager Jim Melloan. “The Inc. 5000 gives an unrivalled portrait of young, underreported companies across all industries doing fascinating things with cutting-edge business models, as well as older companies that are still showing impressive growth.”

**Methodology**

The 2008 Inc. 5000 list measures revenue growth from 2004 through 2007. To qualify, companies must be U.S.-based and privately held, for profit, independent – not subsidiaries or divisions of other companies – as of December 31, 2007, and have had at least \$200,000 in revenue in 2004, and \$2 million in 2007.

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**About FONA International, Inc.**

Founded in 1987, FONA International creates and manufactures flavors for many of the largest food, beverage and nutraceutical companies in the world. It offers flavor solutions for the confection, sweet, culinary and beverage market segments from its state-of-the-art, 33-acre campus in Geneva, IL. FONA International has established a reputation as the forward-thinking, independent solution provider in the very competitive flavor industry.

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