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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 12, 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 the fastest-growing private companies in the country by Inc. 5000 for the third consecutive year. FONA’s three-year sales growth of 55% made it one of only 14 food and beverage companies in Illinois to receive this recognition. It’s also the only flavor company to make the list.

“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.

“Savvy trend spotters and those who invest in private companies know that the Inc. 5000 is the best place to find out about young companies that are achieving success through a wide variety of unprecedented business models, as well as older private companies that are still expanding at an impressive rate,” said Inc. 5000 project manager Jim Melloan. “That’s why our list is so eagerly anticipated every year.”

Methodology

The Inc. 5000 is ranked according to percentage revenue growth from 2005 through 2008. To qualify, companies must have been founded and generating revenue by the first week of 2005, and therefore able to show four full calendar years of sales. Additionally, they have to be U.S.-based, privately held, for profit, and independent -- not subsidiaries or divisions of other companies -- as of December 31, 2008. Revenue in 2005 must have been at least \$200,000, and revenue in 2008 must have been at least \$2 million. The top 10 percent of companies on the list comprise the Inc. 500, now in its 28th year.

About Inc. Magazine

Founded in 1979 and acquired in 2005 by Mansueto Ventures LLC, *Inc.* is the only major business magazine dedicated exclusively to owners and managers of growing private companies that delivers real solutions for today’s innovative company builders. With a total paid circulation of 712,961, *Inc.* provides hands-on tools and market-tested strategies for managing people, finances, sales, marketing, and technology. Visit us online at Inc.com.

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. Visit fona.com.

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