



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

Geneva, IL, August 7, 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 *Chicago's 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work For* by the National Association for Business Resources (NABR) for the third year in a row. FONA was also one of 11 Elite Award winners, earning the Recognition and Retention award for its innovative programs dedicated to employee satisfaction. This is the second time FONA has earned this distinction.

"This is a great honor for our corporate headquarters and a wonderful recognition of all of the initiatives and programs our people have put in place and championed over the years. At FONA we know that our people and the culture they have built is our biggest asset and the single most important factor in our continued growth as a company," said Joe Slawek, President & CEO of FONA International. "We are very grateful to our people for creating a work culture that is satisfying for customers, co-workers and management alike."

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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