

Business

New metro-area companies ranked high by Entrepreneur magazine

Whitney Blake, The Examiner
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WASHINGTON -

Entrepreneur magazine released its 13th annual "Hot" list of the fastest-growing businesses in America this week. Thirty companies in the metro area made the cut of the newly expanded list of 500 firms, with 22 placing in the top half.

Three firms in Washington, 19 in Northern Virginia and eight in Maryland beat out 19 million other businesses for the distinction.

Entrepreneur, which partnered with the Corporate Research Board, chose the fastest-growing firms from a field of 95,000 companies founded between 1998 and 2002. To be considered, the firms had to meet job and sales growth criteria, have sales under \$1 billion in 2006 and the hands-on involvement of its CEO.

One of the reasons the metro area has been a haven for smaller businesses is the tremendous presence of large businesses, and the federal government, which provide a ready market, said Jerry Gordon, president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority.

Large businesses and the federal government also attract "bright, young people" who might ultimately go out and start their own business, Gordon added.

Additionally, there is a "greater-than-proportionate share of minority- and women-owned businesses" in the region, particularly in Fairfax County.

These two categories are experiencing the fastest growth, Gordon said.

The growth of firms involved in contracting with the government stood out to Maria Anton, executive editor of Entrepreneur, who found a particularly high number of Washington-area contractors on the list.

In the top 100 was Four Points Technology, based in Herndon; Government Support Services Inc., headquartered in Alexandria; The Dixon Group Inc., based in Washington; Applied Integrated Technologies Inc. in Greenbelt; Log.Sec Corp. of Manassas; Bethesda-based Iridium Satellite LLC; Patner Construction Inc. in Fairfax; and Odoi Associates Inc., which is headquartered in Greenbelt.

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