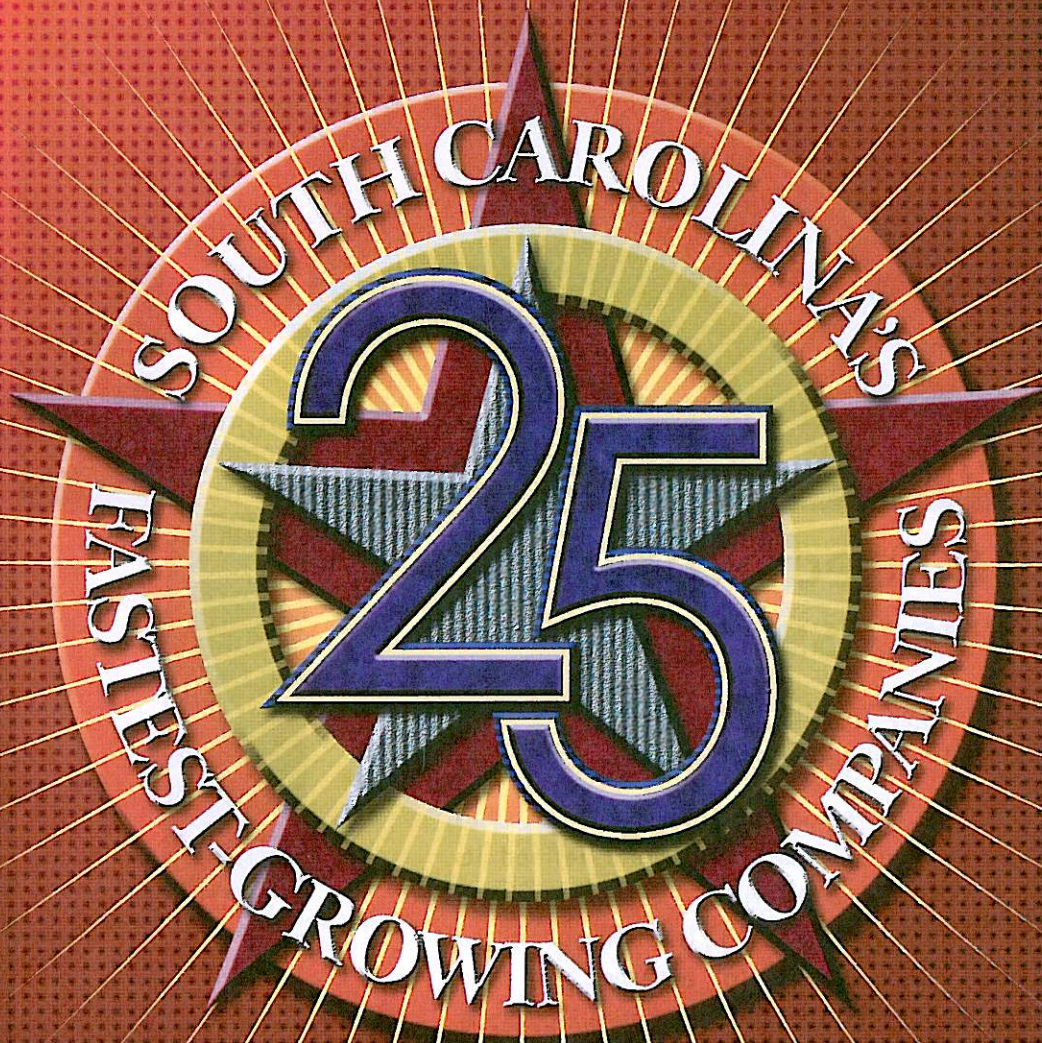


ELLIOTT DAVIS LLC
presents



IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE
SOUTH CAROLINA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
SIXTH ANNUAL RANKING OF THE STATE'S
TOP-PERFORMING BUSINESSES.

Despite monumental gas prices and a growing national deficit, businesses in 2006-07 enjoyed prosperity that was comparatively epic in proportion. Since the turn of the century, companies have been running leaner, using less labor (without sacrificing productivity), and increasing the support they offer consumers and employees.

Gone are the dot-com halcyon days of lavish spending and even more lavish projecting. Mature businesses have learned significant financial lessons and now are paying off debt rather than incurring it. The result is a healthier economic sensibility that leaves businesses less vulnerable to impulsive consumerism and more grounded as a result of solid financial planning. That is exactly how this year's South Carolina's Fastest-Growing Companies landed in their top spots.

The 2007 Fastest-Growing Companies covered a wide array of industries, including financial services, construction, manufacturing, professional services, health care, and technology. And with the exception of technology, which experienced a bit of a dip nationally, the big winners this year experienced growth in unprecedented numbers, with the biggest growth coming out of the financial services sector.

This year's winners are primarily private businesses that attribute their astonishing success to lean, strong labor, increased productivity, unparalleled customer service, and prudent long-term financial planning. Our 2007 winners increased their gross revenues from 90 percent to an astounding 397 percent!

South Carolina's Fastest-Growing Companies 2007, is co-sponsored by Elliott Davis, LLC, one of the state's leading accounting and business advisory firms, along with the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce. The list recognizes 25 companies statewide for exceptional performance in both revenue and employment growth. The 25

top performers cover a broad spectrum in terms of size, industry sector, and geographic locations.

From the Upstate to the Midlands to the Lowcountry, this year's winners show a favorable spread across the region. Overall, 12 cities are represented among this year's entrants, with the highest number of entries clustered in the Coastal/Lowcountry areas. Among the top 25 winners, 16 companies reported revenues greater than \$10 million annually, with the largest having assets of more than \$465 million.

Tricor Construction Inc. of Spartanburg, Force Protection Industries of Ladson, and Customer Effective of Greenville are the 2007 fastest-growing companies in South Carolina based on revenue alone.

"I am proud to be a part of a program that celebrates such an outstanding group of entrepreneurs and business owners," said S. Hunter Howard Jr., president and chief executive officer of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce. "It is so important to the growth of our state that we continue to have companies that persevere through all kinds of economic weather and who continue to rise to the top. The continued growth of these middle market companies is vital to the continued prosperity and success of South Carolina."

The 2007 annual ranking clearly demonstrates the renewed prosperity being felt throughout the state and around the country.

"I'm thrilled to see that this year's honorees come from all sectors of the business spectrum and that they have enjoyed such unparalleled prosperity," Elliott Davis Chairman Todd Mitchell said. "It says great things about our economy and our state that we are continuing to grow and succeed at such a remarkable rate."

Submissions were compiled, evaluated, and ranked by a review panel from Elliott Davis. Recognizing exceptional growth and performance is the basis for South Carolina's Fastest-Growing Compa-

nies 2007, whose inaugural ranking was released in the fall of 2002. Details on previous program winners can be found at www.ElliottDavis.com.

The South Carolina's Fastest-Growing Companies initiative focuses on recognizing the achievements of emerging privately and publicly owned businesses and their contributions to the state's economy. The 2007 rankings were determined using a weighted equation tied to percentage of increase of both gross revenues (or assets) and full-time employment.

To learn more about the South Carolina's Fastest-Growing Companies initiative, visit www.ElliottDavis.com or contact Buster Kennedy at 864-242-3370 or fastest@ElliottDavis.com.

Percentages by Industry

Distribution	17
Financial Services.....	14
Technology.....	13
Construction.....	13
Manufacturing.....	12
Staffing.....	7
Professional Services.....	5
Real Estate.....	5
Retail.....	4
Other	10
Total.....	100

Leading Increases in Revenue (percent)

Tricor Construction Inc.	397
Force Protection Industries	300
Customer Effective Inc.	216

Leading Increases in Employment (percent)

North American Rescue Products Inc.	500
FGP International	189
M33 Integrated	67

South Carolina's Fastest-Growing Companies 2007

#	Company	Location	Started	Top Executive	Industry	Description
1	Tricor Construction Inc.	Spartanburg	2001	Kelly Cheek	Construction	Construction company that specializes in site-specific, reinforced earth structures and geosupport systems.
2	Force Protection Industries	Ladson	1997	Gordon McGilton	Manufacturing	Ladson-based manufacturer of the Buffalo and Cougar armored vehicles used to protect U.S. security personnel and armed forces around the globe.
3	Customer Effective Inc.	Greenville	2003	Scott Millwood	Software Consulting	Leading innovator in custom interaction solutions based on the Microsoft Customer Relationship Management (CRM) platform.
4	North American Rescue Products Inc.	Greenville	1995	Robert A. Castellani	Military Medical	Manufacturer of emergency rescue and medical equipment for military health care professionals.
5	Dargan Construction Company	Myrtle Beach	1953	Shaw Dargan	Construction	Commercial general contractor that undertakes all forms of commercial construction, but specializes in high-rise condominium projects in Horry County.



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