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Q1 2007 'Top Five Growth Companies' Announced by the Private Company Index

Monday April 23, 12:50 pm ET

CHICAGO, April 23 /PRNewswire/ -- The Private Company Index (PCI) announces its "Top Five Growth Company" list for the most recent quarter. These five companies experienced an overall average growth of 47% in Q1 2007 -- a performance equal to an annualized growth rate of nearly 190%! The PCI, as a whole, reflected 17% growth for this same quarter; so this diverse group of top players far outperformed the Index.

ADVERTISEMENT The companies honored with this distinction are:

Appletree (Wilmington, Delaware) - Provider of corporate telephone answering and other support services.

Bearse USA (Chicago, Illinois) - Manufacturer of custom sewn products serving the military, law enforcement, industrial and promotional product sectors.

Gazelles, Inc. (Reston, Virginia) - Provider of executive education and coaching programs for leaders of mid sized private companies (30-2000 employees).

NationLink Wireless® (Franklin, Tennessee) - Provider of wireless voice and data solutions for businesses.

Tenmast Software (Lexington, Kentucky) - Provider of software, data management and training to Housing Authorities and the public housing industry.

When asked how they achieved these notable results, company CEOs pointed to three main factors -- people, leadership and strong return on investment from capital improvements. Andy Bailey, President of NationLink Wireless®, explains his view: "... the most important component for success is the people that work in the business. We set out in 2007 with a lofty goal of 70% growth and are well on our way to achieving it. Our people are ... aware of this goal and exactly what it will take to get there. They buy-in fully and, everyday, do what it takes to succeed."

Citing leadership change as a stimulus for growth, Verne Harnish, CEO of Gazelles, Inc., explains, "... first quarter 2007 was the strongest, for both revenue and profit, in [our] 10 year history. A big part of our success was getting me out of the way and bringing on a new President, Patrick Thean, who has experience building larger firms and implementing processes to drive and manage growth."

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- [ABN Amro Agrees to Be Bought by Barclays](#) - AP (3:43 pm)
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Crediting a planned pay-off from capital improvements, Bearse USA CEO, Tom Auer, shares, "This quarter's sales were boosted by strong military sales and the payoff provided by significant capital investments made over the last four quarters. With enhanced equipment we expanded our capabilities and increased efficiency to make us a stronger player in the market."

The PCI is generally recognized as the most authoritative source on company growth and private sector performance by practitioners in the market, including investment bankers, broker-dealers, M&A professionals and leading accounting firms. The PCI is currently accepting new portfolio members until June 1; see <http://www.privatecompanyindex.com> for an application and more information.

About Private Company Index

The Private Company Index (<http://www.privatecompanyindex.com>) provides the financial and investment community a resource to objectively measure private business activity. It was created by Entrex (<http://www.entrex.net>), the global source to find, research, track, manage and trade interests in private companies, along with the Private Business Channel (PBC) (<http://www.privatebusinesschannel.com>).

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