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## Chicago-Based IT Consulting Firm smarTECHS.net Named One of America's 5,000 Fastest-Growing Private Companies

CHICAGO, Aug. 20 /PRNewswire/ -- Chicago-based IT consulting firm smarTECHS.net was named to Inc. Magazine's list of the 5,000 fastest-growing private companies in the country. The list is a comprehensive look at the most important segment of the economy -- America's independent-minded entrepreneurs. Taken as a whole, these companies represent the backbone of the U.S. economy.

"We are honored to be selected to this list for the second year in a row," said smarTECHS.net Founder and Chief Executive Officer George Burciaga. "This recognition is a testament to our team that is constantly exceeding the expectations and overall value proposition of our clients as we continue to grow in multiple markets."

smarTECHS.net -- a Chicago-based IT consulting firm specializing in Web, application and infrastructure development -- provides full-service, innovative technology solutions for national and local clients in both the private and public sectors. By building strategic partnerships with global corporations, such as Microsoft and Dell, smarTECHS.net offers tailored IT solutions that specifically align with the mission and goals of each client. Recognized as one of the fastest growing companies in the country now for the past two years by Inc. Magazine and recording a three-year sales growth of 129.9 percent, smarTECHS.net is a privately held company that has a strong commitment to community service and development. For more information, please visit <http://www.smartechs.net>.



The Inc. ranking of 2,795 is one in a long list of recent awards that smarTECHS.net and Burciaga have received. Burciaga was recently named the 2008 Illinois Small Business Person of the Year and second runner-up for the 2008 National Small Business Person of the Year. He has also been named the Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Region V Minority Small Business Person of the Year and nominated for the national award to be presented in Washington, D.C. in September as part of the MED Week conference.

Burciaga grew up in the Pilsen neighborhood in Chicago, where his entrepreneurial spirit emerged early. In 1998, when he was 23, Burciaga founded smarTECHS.net from his two-bedroom apartment, focusing on serving the investment banking industry. The company has since branched out and diversified its business, serving educational institutions, government agencies and municipalities.

"Our second annual Inc. 5000 continues the most ambitious project in business journalism," said Inc. 5000 Project Manager Jim Melloan. "The Inc. 5000 gives an unrivalled portrait of young, underreported companies across all industries doing fascinating things with cutting-edge business models, as well as older companies that are still showing impressive growth."

The 5000 companies that made the list reported aggregate revenue of \$185 billion and median three-year growth of 147 percent. Most important, the 2008 Inc. 5000 companies were engines of job growth, having created more than 826,033

jobs since those companies were founded. Complete results of the Inc. 5000, including company profiles and a list of the fastest-growing companies that can be sorted by industry and region can be found at <http://www.inc5000.com>.

#### Hottest Regions and Industries for Fastest-Growing Companies

The Chicago metro area ranks in the top 5 in the Inc. 5000 list with 189 companies. New York metro area tops the Inc. 5000 list with 355. Washington, D.C. comes in a second with 300 companies; Los Angeles is third (244 companies); and Atlanta in fourth (194 companies).

The largest business category is IT Services with 579 Inc. 5000 companies. Business Services (532 companies), Construction (459), Manufacturing (405), and Advertising & Marketing (361) complete the top five industries ranked on the 2008 Inc. 5000.

The most notable median growth categories among the Inc. 5000 fastest-growing businesses are in the Energy category (which grew by 298 percent), followed by Government Services (which grew by 220 percent), Security (200 percent growth), IT Services and Software (both grew by 187 percent), and Consulting (which grew by 182 percent on average).

#### Methodology

The 2008 Inc. 5000 list measures revenue growth from 2004 through 2007. To qualify, companies must be U.S.-based and privately held, for profit, independent -- not subsidiaries or divisions of other companies -- as of December 31, 2007, and have had at least \$200,000 in revenue in 2004, and \$2 million in 2007.

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#### About Inc. 500|Inc. 5000 Conference

Each year, Inc. magazine and Inc.com celebrate the remarkable achievements of today's entrepreneurial superstars -- the privately held small businesses that drive our economy. The Inc. 500|Inc. 5000 Conference brings together members of the Inc. 5000 community -- both a new class of Inc. 5000 honorees and the list's alumni -- for three days of powerful networking, inspired learning, and momentous celebration. For the first time ever, this powerful networking event is open to all. Please join us September 18-20, 2008 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in Washington, D.C. smarTECHS.net Founder and Chief Executive Officer George Burciaga is scheduled to speak at the Inc. 500|Inc. 5000 Conference. For more information, visit <http://www.Inc500Conference.com>.

#### smarTECHS.net

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