

100. GO, GO ARIZONA

Arizona Races in the Inc. 500

BY RICK GIBSON



I'M NOT GOING to talk about the 1,000 people who graced the gala black-tie affair—or about appearances by *Jerry Maguire* inspiration Leigh Steinberg, Pete Slosberg of Pete's Wicked Ale, and SpaceShipOne designer Burt Rutan who recently won the X Prize for taking the first person into space in a private craft.

What I would like to mention is that although Inc. 500 honorees hail from 46 states and the District of Columbia, Tucson is a great host city for the event since 13 of this year's honorees are based in Arizona. With innovation to spare, the Arizona group included some names you've probably heard—GoDaddy Group (Scottsdale, No. 8), Cold Stone Creamery (Scottsdale, No. 441), Schaller

and Web sites now attract more than 2.1 million unique visitors per month. Innovation: Boldly raising technology and ethics standards in one of the world's oldest industries.

Cultural Experiences Abroad (Tempe): No. 225

Anyone for studying in Grenoble, Florence or Barcelona? CEA works with schools to offer full-service study-abroad programs in 18 cities and eight countries. Innovation: It's the global economy, stupid!

CyraCom Intl. (Tucson): No. 446

They take standard phone lines and deliver on-site interpretation and trans-

literation. Innovation: "FMFC Online" brings rate sheets, price locking, underwriting, document requests, training, order tracking, loan status and performance reports to mortgage companies all over the U.S.

JLT Mobile Computers (Chandler): No. 69

JLT makes rugged and durable computers for government, military and industrial use. Its flat-panel units can be found in battle tanks, mining equipment, off-road racers and ocean-going yachts, as well as in mundane applications like forklifts, farm equipment and public-safety vehicles. Innovation: Smart like Einstein, tough like Schwarzenegger.


Khimetrics (Scottsdale): No. 24

Forget location, location, location. For retailers, it's really price, price, price. They provide the financial models that determine how big players like Albertsons, PETSMART and Safeway can compete in today's economy. Innovation: Data manipulation with retail domain expertise.

PremierGarage (Phoenix): No. 311

Ugly oil stains can now simply be wiped off with a cloth, and messy piles taken off the floor thanks to the company's specialized floor coatings, cabinetry and organizational systems. Innovation: Finesse moves from the classy closet to the classy garage.

The Christmas Light Co. (Phoenix): No. 362

Can we see a show of hands for those who enjoy hanging Christmas tree lights? CLC's unique No Ladder Light Hanging Kit eliminates ladders, chairs and any other crazy climbing objects. A patented light clip is screwed to the end of a telescopic pole. We hear lots of retailers will eventually stock it, but with Christmas still a long way off, we'll have to wait and see. Innovation: Brings technology to holiday decorating. 

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Anderson Inc. (Phoenix, No. 413), PatchLink Corp. (Scottsdale, No. 265)—as well as these companies not yet on your radar... I said yet.

Ambient Weather (Chandler): No. 141

A virtual weather station combined with the largest, free weather-station network in the world. They provide all the technology tools you need to set up your own weather station. Innovation: They say all weather is local, then all weather broadcasting should be local as well.

Auction Systems Auctioneers (Phoenix): No. 397

The No. 1 fastest growing woman-owned business, the company's online previews and simulcast auctions have helped evolve this otherwise tradition-bound industry. Its bulletin boards, chat rooms

and Web sites now attract more than 2.1 million unique visitors per month. Innovation: Boldly raising technology and ethics standards in one of the world's oldest industries.

First Magnus Financial Corp. (Tucson): No. 161

If you do business in Tucson, you know this company is growing like crazy. Word has it that it has already outgrown its new facility and has decided against giving up the old building. The nation's largest privately held mortgage company serves as an invisible back-office for mortgage companies all over the country.

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