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Irvine, CA

Merchant Services Ranked One of the Nation's Fastest Growing Privately-Held Companies

In its 27th annual ranking of America's strongest business enterprises, Inc. Magazine named Merchant Services as one of the nation's *5000 Fastest Growing Privately-Held Companies* in America.

Inc. Magazine ranked Merchant Services second nationally with respect to sales volume amid electronic payment solutions companies. Merchant Services was ranked 1,666 on *Inc. Magazine's* full listing of the 5,000 fastest growing businesses nationwide.

Created to recognize the best of the nation's new and expanding business ventures, *Inc. Magazine's* Top 5000 ranking showcases businesses that have driven year-over-year revenue growth and expanding market shares for a consecutive four year period. The list represents the most comprehensive look at the most important segment of the economy – America's independent-minded entrepreneurs.

"Savvy trend spotters and those who invest in private companies know that the Inc. 5000 is the best place to find out about young companies that are achieving success through a wide variety of unprecedented business models, as well as older private companies that are still expanding at an impressive rate," said Inc. 5000 project manager Jim Melloan. "That's why our list is so eagerly anticipated every year."

In addition to the overall ranking, Merchant Services was ranked No. 72 in the Top 100 Financial Services companies, and 95 in the Top 100 Businesses in the Greater Los Angeles area.

"It's truly an honor to be recognized with the top U.S. enterprises for their cutting-edge technology and effective growth strategies," noted Nathan Jurczyk, Vice President of Operations. "This ranking reflects our continued commitment of delivering exceptional customer service, the latest in technological support systems and competitive pricing to each of our business partners."

Methodology

The Inc. 5000 is ranked according to percentage revenue growth from 2005 through 2008. To qualify, companies must have been founded and generating revenue by the first week of 2005, and therefore able to show four full calendar years of sales. Additionally, they have to be U.S.-based, privately held, for profit, and independent—not subsidiaries or divisions of other companies—as of December 31, 2008. Revenue in 2005 must have been at least \$200,000, and revenue in 2008 must have been at least \$2 million.

About Merchant Services

Merchant Services, founded in Orange County, CA in 1995, has expanded to a company comprised of more than 300 skilled professionals. Merchant Services specializes in providing electronic payment solutions to small and medium sized businesses throughout the United States. Today, Merchant Services operates in all 48 of the continental United States and provides state of the art, cost-effective transaction services to tens of thousands of business partners.

About Inc. Magazine

Founded in 1979 and acquired in 2005 by Mansueto Ventures LLC, Inc. (www.inc.com) is the only major business magazine dedicated exclusively to owners and managers of growing private companies that delivers real solutions for today's innovative company builders. With a total paid circulation of 712,961, Inc. provides hands-on tools and market-tested strategies for managing people, finances, sales, marketing, and technology.