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Washington SmartCEO/BDO Seidman LLP Announce Fast Growth Companies

January 7, 2008- *Washington SmartCEO* magazine/*BDO Seidman LLP* announces the publication's second annual Five on Fire winners, debuting in the Future 50 section of the January 2008 issue. The Five in Fire category honors five companies who represent key industry segments within the market and were the next five non-tech emerging growth companies in the Future 50 rankings. These companies are celebrated in conjunction with the Future 50 winners.

The Five on Fire winners are Bognet Construction Associates, Inc., FOX Architects, HarVest Bank of Maryland, KnowledgeBank, and The Winvale Group.

The Future 50 program recognizes the 50 fastest growing companies in the Greater Washington area based on employee and revenue growth. This year's Future 50 winners employ 21,000 people and generate more than \$6 billion in revenues. Winners will be recognized at a baseball-themed black-tie dinner event Jan. 17, 2008, at the Westin Alexandria in Old Town Alexandria, VA.

To register for this event, contact Samantha Belin at (410) 342-9510, ext. 238 or Samantha@smartceo.com by Jan. 11, 2008. Individual tickets are \$200 and full tables are \$1,500. Members of the press receive one free seat at the dinner and must R.S.V.P. by Jan. 11.

Washington SmartCEO thanks BDO Seidman LLP, Greenberg Traurig LLP, Provident Bank, Bombardier Skyjet, Bank of America, SMART Business Advisory and Consulting LLC, Washington Nationals, The Center for Systems Management, Lustig Communications, and TiE-DC for their sponsorship of the single most important networking event of the year!

Serving as the keynote speaker for this year's event is Manny Acta of the Washington Nationals. When hired on November 14, 2006 Manny Acta became the 2nd manager in the history of the Washington Nationals and the 12th in the history of the franchise. Prior to joining the Nationals Acta served as a third base coach for the Mets and Expos. Acta, entering his 2nd year of duty with the Nats, is currently the youngest active Manager in baseball. Originally from the Dominican Republic Acta Managed his native team at the 2006 World Baseball Classic where they reached the final four.

The common theme among the Five on Fire CEOs is how key professional mentors have played a role in their current successes.

"The Five on Fire program is about celebrating growth, which cannot be done without the help and support of others. Whether it is a parent, business partner, or previous employer, we see the value and impact these individuals have and feel privileged to be part of the celebration of how far these CEOs and their companies have come," says Publisher, Craig Burris.

Washington SmartCEO magazine is a regional "growing company" publication. *SmartCEO* believes that a "growing company" is really determined by the spirit, drive and dynamics of a company's owners and managers, rather than by the size of its building, the number of its employees, or its sales volume. That's why our focus is on decision makers from many different-sized businesses. Each month, a variety of businesses in the greater Washington and greater Baltimore areas turn to our pages for features, case-study advice and trend analysis, all with a uniquely local flavor.



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These readers range from younger, dynamic companies, to established multi-generational, family-owned

firms. Many of our readers are also involved in companies that are emerging or going public. *SmartCEO* is read by more than 34,000 business owners in Baltimore and Washington.

Title sponsor, BDO Seidman LLP is a national professional services firm providing assurance, tax, outsourcing, financial advisory and consulting services to a wide range of publicly traded, privately held and tax-exempt organizations. According to Tony Cord of BDO Seidman, the Future 50 Awards Co-Chairman, "High-growth companies have unique strengths and challenging requirements. As a CPA firm, our people truly enjoy the opportunity to serve the complex needs of companies like these, so BDO is proud to serve as the Title Sponsor."

For a complete list of winners, visit www.smartceo.com. Nominations for Future 50/Five on Fire closed mid-October and are expected to open mid-August for 2009 nominations.

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