

NEWS RELEASE

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GTS COMMUNICATIONS WINS WEATHERHEAD 100 AWARD

NORTH OLMSTED, OH—GTS Communications, an inner-connect telecommunications firm specializing in custom business phone systems and fiber cabling for data, voice and audio-visual applications, was awarded Tuesday its first Weatherhead 100 honor for outstanding growth.

The 2005 Weatherhead 100 program recognizes more than 100 of the fastest growing companies in Northeast Ohio based on revenue growth from 2000 to 2004. GTS ranked #24 in the upstart category, which measures the sales performance of organizations that, in 2004, had 15 or fewer employees and/or less than \$1 million in net sales.

The 19th annual event was presented by Case Western Reserve University's Weatherhead School of Management in partnership with COSE, the Council of Smaller Enterprises. Honors were bestowed upon winning companies at a black-tie dinner ceremony on December 6 at Executive Caterers at Landerhaven in Mayfield Heights.

GTS posted sales growth of 101 percent and employment growth of 75 percent during the five-year period. Revenues for 2005 alone are up approximately 35 percent over last year.

"We are especially pleased about sustaining this type of growth during the years of the recession," says GTS president Jerry Stallard, who runs the company with his wife and business partner, Victoria, who is vice president. "This is the kind of achievement that can only be accomplished with dedicated, loyal employees and clients."

GTS begins its tenth year in business in 2006, employs a total of 12, and serves all of Ohio and states throughout the Midwest and South. The company has had no voluntary employee turnover in its history. Earlier this year, that kind of success also earned GTS the COSE Ten Under 10 award, which recognizes top-performing companies with ten or fewer employees [which GTS had at the time].

Plans are underway to move GTS next spring from its present leased location in North Olmsted to a company-owned building in Strongsville more than five times its current size.

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