

## **B.C. companies recognized for rapid growth, green technology**

Deloitte Fast 50 and Green 15 lists name 14 B.C. tech companies

**Gillian Shaw**

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Two Vancouver companies were among the top 10 Canadian companies named to the Deloitte Technology Fast 50 list.

Vision Critical, headed up by veteran market researcher Angus Reid who founded the Angus Reid Group that was sold to Paris-based Ipsos SA in 2000, ranked fifth on the list that measures companies according to their revenue growth in the past five years.

Developing interactive online market research technology, the company has seen revenues climb more than 5,000 per cent in five years.

Vision Critical was followed in the list at sixth place by Corinex Communications, another Vancouver company and one that develops high speed Internet Protocol (IP) communications systems that run over electrical wiring, phone lines and other conventional systems. Corinex saw its revenues climb almost 3,600 per cent.

Topping the Technology Fast 50 list was Ontario healthcare service and software company Nightingale Informatix which recorded an increase of more than 23,000 per cent in revenue over the period.

"I think British Columbians have a lot to be proud of with companies that are growing like this both from a traditional technology standpoint -- hardware, software and media -- but also from the green side too," said Fraser Liptrot, a partner in Deloitte's Vancouver office and leader of Deloitte's technology group in Vancouver.

Nine other B.C. companies were recognized in the Deloitte awards including four more that ranked further down the Fast 50 list:

Port Coquitlam-based VendTek Systems ranked 27th with revenue up 698 per cent;

Richmond's Talent Technology at 29th with revenue up 679 per cent;

Burnaby's WebTech Wireless at number 40, with revenue up 348 per cent;

Burnaby's Icron Technologies Corporation at 44, with revenue up 296 per cent;

Vancouver's Versatile Systems just making the list at 50, with revenue up 241 per cent.

In Motion Technology, a New Westminster company that has developed in-vehicle broadband technology that provides networking capability for emergency vehicles and other government, public safety, healthcare and utility organizations, was named a Company-to-Watch in Deloitte's annual technology awards.

B.C.'s green technology also received accolades with three B.C. companies among Deloitte's Technology Green 15 award winners. They were Westport Innovations, Questair and Sempa Power Systems.

"It is very exciting; green is very topical with people right now and to have three companies in the Green 15, we are punching more than our weight in British Columbia versus other provinces, not just in green but in the Fast 50," said Liptrot.

The revenue hikes across the board were down a bit this year but Liptrot said the technology companies' achievements are particularly remarkable considering the economic climate.

"These are challenging times for Canadian technology companies," he said, adding that the stronger Canadian dollar makes it more difficult for companies that see their revenue coming in U.S. dollars.

"I think it is remarkable these companies can still produce the stellar results they have," he said.

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