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Heelys Tops BusinessWeek's Annual List of 100 'Hot Growth Companies'

This year's top 100 include a startling number of outfits that measure their years in centuries

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NEW YORK, May 24, 2007 /PRNewswire via COMTEX/ -- Heelys, maker of wheeled sneakers, tops BusinessWeek's annual "Hot Growth" list of 100 companies to watch. Other companies making the cut this year include Bare Escentuals (No.2), Guess? (No.23), Ruth's Chris Steak House (No.32), and Sotheby's (No.54).

You'd expect to see a list like this populated by high-flying tech companies and trendy consumer-product manufacturers. There are plenty of those. No.1 ranked Heelys Inc. makes the wheeled sneakers kids everywhere are skating around on. Smith Micro Software Inc. (No.29) provides big wireless carriers with code that helps consumers download music and data to their phones.

This year's list, however, is dominated by Old Economy businesses: metal benders, defense contractors, and others that measure their history not in decades but in centuries. Smith & Wesson (No.77), founded in 1852, still manufactures in its original plant. Steel distributor A.M. Castle & Co. (No.51), founded in 1890, looks spry for its age. And don't forget the oldest company on the list, auction house Sotheby's Inc. (No.54), founded in 1744. It has made a killing recently, thanks to soaring sales.

To identify Hot Growth companies, BusinessWeek sifts through the Standard & Poor's Compustat database of 10,000 public companies for those with revenues of \$50 million to \$1.5 billion a year. Businesses are ranked by three-year sales and earnings growth as well as return on capital. Companies must have a market cap of \$25 million or more and a stock price of at least 5. Profit or stock price shortfalls, or news that puts prospects in doubt, may knock a company off the list.

BusinessWeek's cover story "Hot Growth Companies" is available online at www.businessweek.com and will be on newsstands Monday, May 28.

The top 10 companies on BusinessWeek's annual list of 100 "Hot Growth Companies" are:

Rank	Company
1	Heelys (HLYS)
2	Bare Escentuals (BARE)
3	TGC Industries (TGE)
4	VASCO Data Security Intl. (VDSI)
5	Titanium Metals (TIE)
6	Applix (APLX)
7	Under Armour (UA)
8	Dynamic Materials (BOOM)
9	Flotek Industries (FTK)
10	Houston Wire & Cable (HWCC)

SOURCE BusinessWeek

Patti Straus, +1-212-512-2680, Heather Carpenter, +1-212-512-2854, both of BusinessWeek <http://www.businessweek.com> Copyright (C) 2007 PR Newswire.

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