

Houston, the tech sector is back

Houston Business Journal by By Gregory S. Price, Guest Commentary

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Well, its late fall and that must mean it's Fast Tech 50 time again. This year's event was an expanded technology conference with multiple tracks and events for folks that work in the technology sector/emerging market arena to come out and meet their peers and network with other similar executives. All the feedback I received from participants is that we have hit a grand slam with the expanded efforts. The Tech sector is back.

Economic Impact

The local economic impact made by this year's Fast Tech 50 is phenomenal. When reviewing the entire 50 companies an impressive overview quickly emerges — these organizations are responsible for creating almost 4,700 jobs and over \$831 million in revenues to our local economy. Increases of over 10 percent for jobs and revenue from last year's list.

We had over 349 companies express an interest in becoming a member of the exclusive Fast Tech 50 club. The Class of 2011 continues Houston's tradition of technology excellence. And they also bring to the forefront new and different stories of entrepreneurial success. This year's list of honorees includes 18 first-time honorees, 6 two-time honorees, 7 three-time honorees, 9 four-time honorees, 5 five-time honorees and 3 six-time honorees and 2 eight-time honorees.

The Class of 2011 will continue the trend of being one of the youngest we have ever had in our program. In comparing this year's group of winners, it's clear that they represent a much younger and still developing group of early stage companies. They will have an impact on our local and national economy for many years to come, and they will add to the legacy of what makes Houston the top city in the country to start a business.

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