

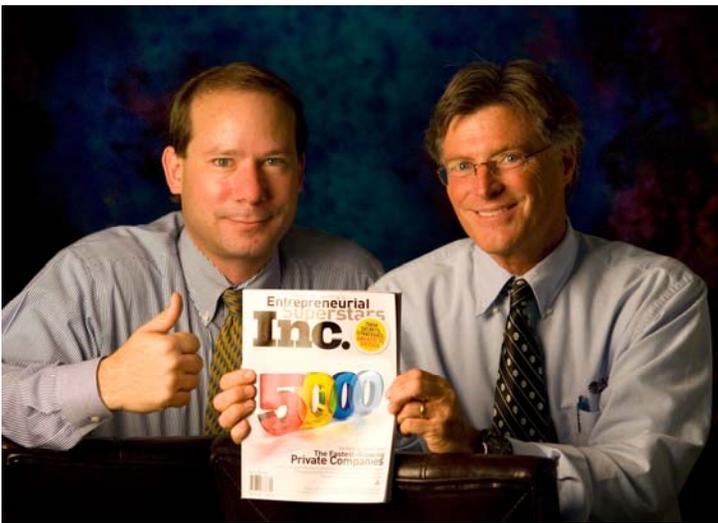


*PRESS RELEASE*  
*See attached photo.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **Hardy Diagnostics Makes the Inc. 5000**

***Inc. magazine announces the fastest growing companies in USA***



Nathaniel Graessle, CFO, and Jay Hardy, President, accept the award for the fastest growing companies in 2009. Photo by Christopher Catani.

SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, OCT. 7 - Inc. magazine announced its third annual Inc. 5000, an exclusive ranking of the nation's fastest-growing private companies. The list represents a comprehensive look at the most important segment of the economy — America's independent-minded entrepreneurs. Hardy Diagnostics, a Central Coast medical device manufacturer and distributor, is honored to be included in this year's list.

According to Inc. magazine, "Despite the ongoing recession, aggregate revenue among the companies on the list is \$214 billion, an increase of \$29 billion since last year. The Inc. 5000 companies are responsible for creating more than one million jobs, illustrating the impact that private, fast-growing companies have on the economy." Hardy confirmed that it belongs in this select group of companies by posting three consecutive profitable quarters thus far in 2009 thereby allowing the company to avoid the layoffs that have been all too common during the economic recession.

**More**

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"We are very pleased to have not only weathered the storm during these difficult times, but to have also been able to make plans for future growth and expansion of our product line," states Jay Hardy, President.

Inc. magazine states, "This year's Inc. 5000 list offers a preview of which industries are poised for growth in coming years. With an average growth rate of 667 percent, Insurance ranks as the top industry overall. Government Services is the top industry gainer with 252 companies on this year's list, up from 135 last year. Health is the top industry in both total revenue (\$22.7 billion) and total employment (156,223 jobs)." Hardy Diagnostics' growth rate in 2008 was 29.2%, with revenues exceeding \$24 million.

"Savvy trend spotters and those who invest in private companies know that the Inc. 5000 is the best place to find out about young companies that are achieving success through a wide variety of unprecedented business models, as well as older private companies that are still expanding at an impressive rate," said Inc. 5000 project manager, Jim Melloan. "That's why our list is so eagerly anticipated every year."

**ABOUT HARDY DIAGNOSTICS** - Hardy Diagnostics is an FDA licensed and ISO 13485 certified manufacturer of medical devices for microbiological procedures in both clinical and industrial laboratories. Hardy Diagnostics was founded in 1980 in Santa Barbara by Jay Hardy and Robert Shibata after they completed their Medical Technology training in the laboratory at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital.

Hardy Diagnostics manufactures over 3,000 different products for the culture and identification of bacteria and fungi. Among its offerings are products used to culture and detect pathogens commonly seen in the news such as *E.coli*, *Salmonella*, *Listeria*, MRSA, and Influenza H1N1. Over 6,000 laboratories are serviced by Hardy Diagnostics throughout the nation.

Today, Hardy Diagnostics maintains six distribution centers throughout the U.S. All manufacturing takes place at its headquarters in Santa Maria, California. The company also exports products to over 30 nations. The company's mission is to partner with its laboratory customers to prevent and diagnose disease. For more information, visit [www.HardyDiagnostics.com](http://www.HardyDiagnostics.com).

**End**

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