

INSIDE



On schedule

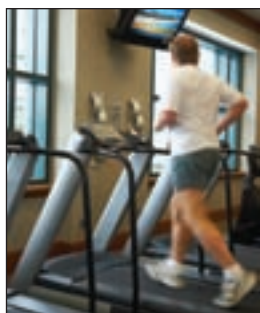
Acquisitions, expansion keep fledgling bank's growth plans on track.

PAGE 2A

Power play

Reverse auction bid lands Metroplex airport contract for Houston power provider.

PAGE 2A



Exercise exits

Bally fitness giant closing three area health clubs.

PAGE 7A



Stimulus watch

Following the money coming to Houston.

PAGE 10A

Firing on all cylinders

New grant keeps UH's diesel emissions studies at full throttle.

PAGE 11A

Creative content

A flexible product that allows for creative solutions is one contributor to CMS provider's success.

STRATEGIES/PAGE 15A

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FOCUS	SECTION B

COMPLEX DEVELOPMENT:

Developer buys two Inner-Loop apartment complexes it built in the early '90s/PAGE 2A



Vol. 40 No. 7 Week of June 26-July 2, 2009

houston.bizjournals.com

76 Pages, 2 Sections \$2.95

HOUSTON
BUSINESS
JOURNAL
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CITYBEAT

Ring exchange engages new jewelry chain

A California retail ring chain in Chapter 11 bankruptcy has sold all three Houston locations to a Canadian jewelry maker new to the U.S. market.

The trio of local Robbins Bros. Corp. stores now operate under the Spence Diamonds Inc. brand.



Glendale-based Robbins Bros. made a splash in 2006 when the self-billed "World's Biggest Engagement Ring Store" opened a first local location in Webster, and followed with outlets in the Willowbrook and Galleria areas.

Local customers received a letter from the retailer informing them that they were closing their Houston operations and provided a Dallas number to call for warranty issues and questions.

Spence Diamonds, operator of eight locations throughout Canada, used the Robbins acquisitions as a timely springboard for entering the United States.

Sean Jones, president, says Spence Diamonds was in the process of entering the Houston market and already had two sites set up with a local broker when he received a surprise call in early December from Steve Robbins.

The former CEO of Robbins Bros. offered Spence Diamonds the chance to bid on the three local sites.

Founded in 1978,

SEE CITYBEAT, PAGE 4A

UTMB starts post-Ike building surge

Creative funding allows \$1 billion to make island campus hurricane-proof

BY JENNIFER DAWSON
HOUSTON BUSINESS JOURNAL

The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston is embarking on nearly \$1.4 billion worth of construction projects that will likely draw the attention of local, regional and national building firms in search of business during the down economy.

The massive undertaking is scheduled to proceed now that key funding has been secured and because of a decision earlier this year by the UT Board of Regents to reject a consultants' recommendation to move all clinical op-

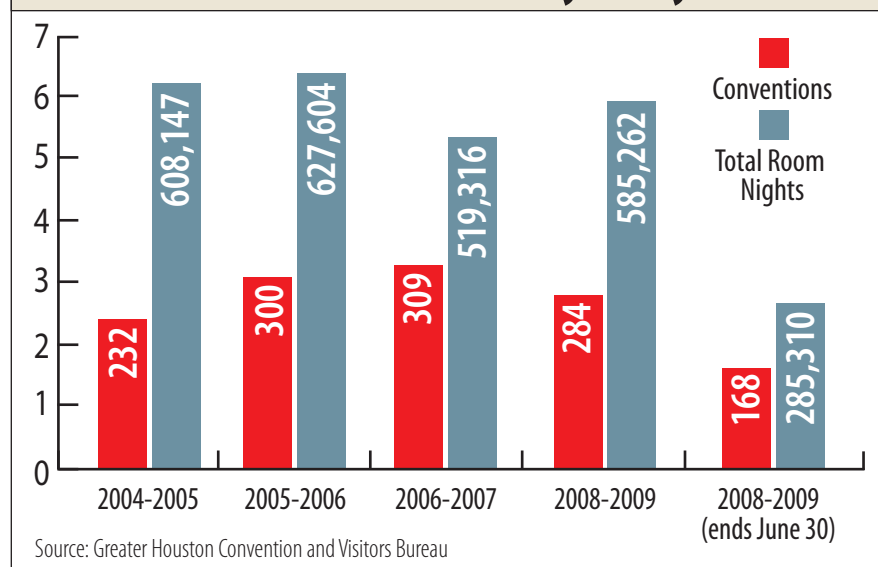


MICHAEL STRAVATO/HBJ

SEE UTMB, PAGE 48A Mike Shriner of UTMB: 'We're going to have a lot of work ahead of us.'

Convention year counting on Rotary coup

Conventions booked by the year



BY CHRISTINE HALL
HOUSTON BUSINESS JOURNAL

Greg Ortale is playing an anxious waiting game as June 30 approaches to mark the end of the city's fiscal year.

The CEO of the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau has yet to hear from the Rotary Club, which is meeting in England this week and considering where to hold the 2015 Rotary International convention.

Houston, picked as a host city finalist in March, is up against Phoenix and Sao Paulo, Brazil, for the piece of business that could attract more than 30,000 people and produce a local economic impact of \$25 million.

The Rotary Club coup also would give a last-minute boost to the bu-

SEE CONVENTIONS, PAGE 49A

FOCUS: BEST PLACES TO WORK

HBJ reveals the results of employee surveys and salutes winners of the 2009 Best Places to Work contest/SECTION B



LIST

Largest Houston-Area Software Development Firms/PAGE 18A



LARGEST HOUSTON-BASED SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT COMPANIES (Ranked by Number of Local Employees)

Rank	Prior	Name of Company Address Telephone Web Site	Number of Local Employees Developers	% Business that is Software Development	Enterprise Development/ Web-Based Applications	Sample of Products	Develop Software for Which Industries	Sample of Company's Alliances or Certifications	Top Local Executive and Title/ Year Founded Locally
1	1	BMC Software 2101 CityWest Blvd., Houston 77042 713-918-8800 www.bmc.com	1,041 DND	100%	yes some	BMC Remedy, BMC BladeLogic, BMC Atrium	financial services, telcommunica- tions, manufacturing, health care, public sector, retail	Cappemini, Cisco, EMC, Ernst & Young, Dell, Deloitte, IBM, Intel, Microsoft, Oracle, SAP	Bob Beauchamp chairman and CEO 1985
2	3	Pros Holdings Inc. 3100 Main St., Suite 900, Houston 77002 713-335-5151 www.prospricing.com	385 DND	100%	yes yes	PROS Pricing Solution Suite (PPSS): Scientific Analytics, Price Optimizer, Deal Optimizer	manufacturing, distribution, services, hotel/cruise, airline	SAP Certified, Powered by SAP NetWeaver, SAP XI, Oracle Certi- fied, Microsoft Globally Man- aged ISV - Registered Member	Bert Winemiller president and CEO 1985
3	4	Quorum Business Solutions Inc. 3010 Briarpark Drive, Suite 450, Houston 77042 713-430-8601 www.qbsol.com	220 45	100%	yes some	TIPS Plant Accounting, Contract Management, Land Suite, PGAS Gas Measurement	oil and gas, renewables, mining	SAP, Microsoft, Oracle, Cisco Systems, SAP BusinessObjects, Schlumberger, ESRI	R. Scott Leeds president 1999
4	8	Global Healthcare Alliance 20 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1000, Houston 77046 713-797-0050 www.globalhca.com	110 15	50%	yes yes	globalcentara ProviderSM: Web- based practice management system, globalcentaraSM	collection management	Microsoft Certification, HP Cer- tification; partners with Idea In- tegration, Computex and TSA	John Adams president and CEO 1997
5	7	HCSS 6200 Savoy, Suite 1100, Houston 77036 713-270-4000 www.hcss.com	105 28	90%	no some	HeavyBid Estimating software, Heavy- Job Job costing software, The Dispatcher resource management software	heavy and highway construction industries	Microsoft Gold Partnership	Mike Rydin president and CEO 1986
6	6	DataCert Inc. 3040 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 1900, Houston 77056 713-572-3282 www.datacert.com	98 16	45%	yes yes	AIMS: legal spend management solution	cross-industry, with a particular focus in the financial services and phar- maceutical industries	Microsoft Gold Certified Part- ner, Safe Harbor Certified, SAS70 Audited	James Tallman president and CEO 1998
7	10	Bridgeway 6575 W. Loop South, 3rd Floor, Bellaire 77401 713-599-8300 www.bridgeway.com	76 DND	100%	yes yes	Bridgeway eDiscovery, Bridgeway Legal Hold, eCounsel®, LawManager®, Secretariat®, Bridgeway Diligent Board- books™, Corridor™	offices of the general counsel and corporate secretary; leading corpora- tions and government agencies	DND	Pat O'Donnell CEO 1989
8	11	FuelQuest Five Greenway Plaza, Suite 1310, Houston 77046 713-222-5700 www.fuelquest.com	73 12	85%	no yes	FuelQuest's Fuel Management System (FMS)	fuel retail, fleet, and transportation	KSS, OPIS, Oracle, SAP, Cisco, Dell, EMC, JBoss/Red Hat, Cyrus One, Level3 Communications, Data Foundry, Software AG	Matt Tormollen president and CEO 1999
9	Not Ranked	Laser Shot 4214 Bluebonnet Drive, Stafford 77477 281-240-1122 www.lasershot.com	70 10	25%	no some	firearm and force option training so- lutions for military and law enforce- ment professionals	military, law enforcement, hunter education	DND	Paige Manard CEO DND
10	15	Alert Logic Inc. 1776 Yorktown, 7th floor, Houston 77056 713-484-8383 www.alertlogic.com	62 15	100%	some yes	Alert Logic Log Manager, Alert Logic Threat Manager	retail, financial services, energy, health care	DND	Michael Turner president and CEO 2002
11	14	OpenSpirit Corp. 4800 Sugar Grove Blvd., Suite 500, Stafford 77477 281-295-1400 www.openspirit.com	58 30	100%	yes yes	OpenSpirit Framework, vendor-specific data store connectors, OpenSpirit-en- abled data management utilities and GIS applications	Upstream E&P	ESRI, Energistics, PPDM, Mi- crosoft	Daniel J. Piette president and CEO 2000
12	16	Cybersoft Technologies 4422 FM 1960 West, Suite 300, Houston 77068 281-453-8500 www.cybersoft.net	47 31	70%	yes yes	Primero Nutrition and Cafeteria Management Solutions, FRE Online Apps, ParentOnline etc.	K-12 school districts, real estate man- agement industry, food service firms, Medicare and Medicaid services, SAP and ERP integration	Microsoft Gold Partner, Micro- soft Custom Development Solu- tions, Microsoft ISV/ Software Solutions, SIF	Chowdary Yalamanchili president 1996
13	13	Merrick Systems 4801 Woodway, Suite 200E, Houston 77056 713-579-3400 www.merricksystems.com	47 14	90%	yes yes	eVIN; ProCount; Carte; OVS, RIO, Rig-Hand, Diamond RFID Tags	upstream and midstream oil and gas	HUB, WBNEC, WBEA, Diversity Suppliers, HMBC, ExxonMobil, BP, Shell, Marathon, Pemex	Samina Farid, chairman and CFO; Kemal Farid, CEO 1989
14	21	Institute of Information Technology Inc. 5910 FM 1488, Magnolia 77354 713-559-4249 www.e-iit.com	29 14	90%	some yes	eRouteLogistics Suite	waste collection, pick-up and deliv- ery, school bus routing	Microsoft Certified, Oracle, Sun, ESRI, Dell	Surya Sahoo president and CEO 2002
15	24	M3 Technology Inc. 10850 Richmond Ave., Suite 290, Houston 77042 713-784-8285 www.m3tch.com	21 11	66%	yes some	SIMTO Scheduling, SIMTO Dock Man- ager, SIMTO M-Blend, SIMTO Distribu- tion, SIMTO Planning Workspace, SIMTO Intergration Depot	process industries, refinery, LNG, oil and petrochemical companies	Microsoft	Dong Dong CEO 2002
16	23	Ascent Business Systems Inc. 1880 S. Dairy Ashford, Suite 535, Houston 77077 281-497-8882 www.ascent-sys.com	16 4	50%	yes some	AutomatedService Field Service Automation, MYTECH Remote Techni- cian solution	field service and repair	Microsoft Certified, Sage Soft- ware Master Developer	Michael Hutar president 1989
17T	Not Ranked	Archimage 4200 Montrose Blvd., Suite 330, Houston 77006 713-523-3425 www.archimageonline.com	15 3	30%	no some	computer games (Serious Video Games), architecture, computer animation, multimedia and Web design	health care, research/academia, tech- nology, entertainment, government	Government Services Admin- istration, American Institute of Architects, HTC, Independent Game Developers	Richard Buday president 1983
17T	Not Ranked	Bradmark Technologies Inc. 4265 San Felipe St., Suite 700, Houston 77027 713-621-2808 www.bradmark.com	15 3	100%	yes some	Bradmark's Surveillance monitors and manages databases, applications and operating systems	all industry sectors	Microsoft, Sybase, Oracle/ SAP, HP	C. Bradley Tashenberg, CEO and founder 1984
19	Not Ranked	EPS Software Corp. 6605 Cypresswood Drive, Suite 300, Spring 77379 832-717-4445 www.eps-software.com	12 9	80%	yes some	Milos Solutions Platform, Tower 48, VFP conversion tools; publishes CoDe Magazine	oil and gas, medical, any who need custom software	Microsoft Certified Partner, Mi- crosoft MVPs, Tablet Influential, Surface Partner, INETA Speakers	Markus Egger president 1999
20	Not Ranked	Enfold Systems 4617 Montrose Blvd., Suite C215, Houston 77006 713-942-2377 www.enfoldsystems.com	12 6	90%	yes yes	Enfold Server, Enfold Desktop, Enfold Proxy	nonindustry specific, includes govern- ment, nonprofits, education, health care and business	DND	Alan Runyan president 2004
21	Not Ranked	Swearingen Software Inc. 6950 Empire Central Drive, Houston 77040 713-849-2026 www.swearingensoftware.com	11 4	100%	yes some	RISynergy - Radiology Information System	radiology, medical	Pervasive	Randall Swearingen, president and CEO 1983
22	Not Ranked	Ashford Technical Software Inc. 1035 Dairy Ashford, Suite 140, Houston 77079 281-531-4360 www.ashfordtech.com	5 5	80%	yes yes	BOP Monitor - Offshore Drilling	various	various	Frank Chapman president 1989
23	Not Ranked	MACRO Enterprises Ltd. 11211 Katy Fwy, Suite 340, Houston 77079 713-827-7273 www.macroenterprises.com	5 4	80%	yes yes	VaRManager, IntroScout	energy, health care, finance	Microsoft Certified Partner	Tom Sofka principal 1977

Some companies did not respond to requests for information.

DND=Did not disclose this information.

To qualify for this list, companies must have a product on the shelf.

When companies are tied by number of employees, the secondary criteria is number of developers. If still tied, companies are listed in alphabetical order.

Source: Questionnaires.
Senior Researcher: Nicole Ferweda.
List Researcher: Diana McKinney.