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THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2017

BUSINESS WEEK



Reaping the rewards of digital finance

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FASTEST 50

Greater Manchester is home to lots of growing businesses



Companies in the fast lane

We reveal this year's Ward Hadaway Greater Manchester Fastest 50 companies

TODAY we reveal the businesses who have made it into the Ward Hadaway Greater Manchester Fastest 50 2017 – the comprehensive list of the region's fastest-growing companies.

Devised and organised by leading law firm Ward Hadaway and backed by the Manchester Evening News/Greater Manchester Business Week, the list highlights and celebrates companies in the

region who have shown the largest growth over recent years with the aim of recognising high achieving companies and encouraging others to follow in their footsteps.

The companies are all from the Greater Manchester Business Week's circulation area and have all seen their turnovers grow over the last three years whilst remaining profitable in each of those years.

Following today's publication of the Fastest 50, an awards ceremony will take

place at the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester on Friday 19 May when the winners of the Ward Hadaway Greater Manchester Fastest 50 2017 will be revealed.

Awards will be given to the fastest growing small, medium and large business, as well as an overall award for the fastest growing business of the year.

Here is the Ward Hadaway Greater Manchester Fastest 50 for 2017 in alphabetical order:

APAM, Manchester

This is a UK real estate asset and investment manager with offices in Manchester and in London. It has invested over £730m into UK investment opportunities on behalf of its joint venture partners and has over £2bn worth of assets under management and/or sold.

Aptus Utilities, Bolton

Aptus Utilities is an Independent Connections Provider (ICP) which offers utility connections services throughout the UK. Based in Bolton, the company provides connections to gas, water, electricity and street lighting and came second in the fastest growing large business in the 2016 Ward Hadaway Greater Manchester Fastest 50 Awards.

Avecto, Manchester

This IT company appeared in last year's Fastest 50 and specialises in security



Mark Austin, CEO at Avecto

software to protect businesses and organisations from a wide range of cyber-attacks. Its customers include PwC, Dundee and Derby Universities and global technology company Semtech.

Car Benefit Holdings Limited, Bury

This is a holding company for a number of businesses including Car Benefit Car Schemes Limited, Car Benefit Finance Limited and Car Benefit Solutions Limited, which specialises in employee car ownership schemes.

CareerMakers Recruitment, Manchester

Recruitment company CareerMakers Recruitment provides contract and permanent staff to businesses in the industrial, commercial, construction and engineering sectors. It has plans to expand to cover Yorkshire and the Midlands.

Castlefield, Manchester

This company was set up in 2002 and specialises in ethical investment advice and investment management to charities, businesses and individuals. It also operates its own grant-making charitable foundation.

Centriq Group, Blackpool

Centriq Group provides IT solutions to the logistics, supply chain and retail sectors via its subsidiary companies: Voiteq specialises in voice-directed warehouse solutions while Cirrus Logistics provides warehouse and supply chain modelling, simulation and optimisation. It appeared in the 2016 Fastest 50 list.

Converge Technology Specialists, Manchester

Converge specialises in providing cloud services to law firms across the UK, including compliance audits, advice and a customer support centre. It has 10 years' experience in the sector.

CPUK, Skelmersdale

CPUK Group is a building and civil engineering company which undertakes contracts between £500,000

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and £15m. Founded in 2000, it has operating divisions covering new build and refurbishment contracts, special projects, social housing schemes and demolition and site remediation.

Eccleston Homes, Warrington

This housebuilder was founded by former Elite Homes Group Ltd chief executive Kevin Marren and specialises in building small-scale developments of traditional-looking homes in locations across the North West.

Edam Group, Manchester

Edam is a group of companies focused on delivering a range of accident and claims-related services including claims management, replacement vehicles and repair management.

Edina UK Limited, Stockport

Energy specialist Edina employs over 200 people and delivers a range of natural gas, combined heat and power and biogas solutions at locations across the UK. It won a Queen's Award for Innovation in 2014.

Eldapoint Ltd, Manchester

Formed in 1968, Eldapoint Ltd has Shipping Container Depot facilities in most major UK ports and manufactures a wide range of structures including storage and shipping containers, modular equipment buildings and fire certified and blast-resistant units.

Energy Gain UK, Ashton-under-Lyne

Energy Gain UK is an accredited designer, supplier and installer of

Neil Turvin,
of Godel



renewable energy systems. The company supplies commercial and domestic clients with a range of systems such as Solar PV, solar thermal, battery storage and air conditioning.

Exchequer Solutions, Chester

Established in 2003, Exchequer Solutions is a commercial contracting company which provides business services to recruitment agencies and contractors across the UK in sectors including construction, technical, engineering and IT. It was in the 2016 and 2015 Fastest 50 lists.

Footasylum, Rochdale

Fashion streetwear and sportswear

retailer Footasylum was established in 2005 and now trades from over 40 high street stores across the UK. It sells items by brands including Nike, Adidas, Reebok and Puma.

Forresters Chicken, Frodsham

Forresters is one of the largest suppliers of cooked, raw and coated poultry in the UK, supplying both the retail and food service sectors with a variety of frozen and chilled products. The company also appeared in the 2016 Fastest 50.

Gladman Developments Limited, Congleton

Developing a range of both office and industrial schemes, Gladman Developments constructs projects totalling up to three million sq ft of space each year across the UK with developments in locations from Aberdeen to Bedford, Newcastle-upon-Tyne to Bristol.

Godel Technologies, Manchester

This software development company employs over 300 people at its offices in Manchester, London, Minsk and Brest. It works with companies including Jet2.com, Experian and AO.com.

GPL Group (Manchester) Limited, Salford

GPL Group is made up of GPL Civil Engineering, GPL Utilities, GPL Special Projects, GPL Plant and Galvac Ltd,

While majority of the companies on this list are from Greater Manchester, some are from outside of the region. This is because the list draws on companies from the Manchester Evening News and Greater Manchester Business Week's circulation area, which reaches across the north west.

which together provide a wide range of services to clients in the rail, civil engineering, utilities and building industries.

Haydock Finance, Blackburn

Established in 1980, Haydock Finance Ltd is an independent finance company providing credit services including asset funding solutions to businesses across the UK, mainly in the SME sector.

Heyrod Construction, Oldham

Heyrod Construction was founded in 1978, originally with a view to providing a specialist formwork / steel fixing service in the field of structural reinforced concrete. Since then it has diversified in both civils and building construction and provides services from concept through to completion.

HFL Building Solutions, Manchester

This building services company offers mobile maintenance services, integrated facilities services and building environmental services across a wide range of sectors including education, commercial, industrial leisure and entertainment. It appeared in the 2016 Fastest 50.

IMS Euro, Stockport

IMS Euro has been supplying non-pharmaceutical medical products since 1992. It supplies doctors and veterinary surgeons in the UK and across the world and is the sole UK distributor for a number of major European manufacturers.

Irwell Valley Adamas Limited, Manchester

Based in Old Trafford, Irwell Valley Adamas is a building maintenance contractor.

Footasylum
is based in
Rochdale



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J.Mills Contractors Ltd, Manchester

This company builds, refurbishes and maintains properties, particularly in the commercial, retail and leisure sectors. Its clients include Capita Symonds, Land Securities and Robinsons Brewery.

Kingdom, Newton-le-Willows

Established in 1993, Kingdom delivers a wide range of services to customers across the UK, including security personnel and systems, reception and concierge services, commercial cleaning, site maintenance, environmental protection and cyber security. It appeared in the 2016 Fastest 50.

Laila's Fine Foods, Blackpool

Started in a household kitchen, this company has grown into a manufacturer of ready meals. Based in a 43,000 sq ft purpose-built factory, the company now employs over 200 people working on more than 250 product ranges.

LPW Technology Limited, Runcorn

From its base in Runcorn, this company develops, manufactures and supplies cutting-edge metal powder solutions for additive manufacturing – also referred to as 3D metal printing. It has customers in the tooling, aerospace, industrial gas turbine, automotive, and medical implant manufacture industries.

LSE Retail Group Limited, Eccles

LSE Retail Group Limited sells lighting and light bulbs to lighting retailers, wholesalers and other customers in the UK and Ireland. The company was named fastest growing medium-sized business in the 2016 Ward Hadaway Fastest 50 Awards.

Lundy Projects, Stockport

Established in 1976, Lundy initially provided turnkey design, fabrication and construction services to the process and chemical industry. The company, which appeared in last year's Fastest 50, has now diversified into other areas including the rail industry where it carries out projects in the UK.

Mark Thompson Transport, Warrington

This family-run business specialises in

VERY BEST FIRMS DRIVING REGION FORWARD

WELCOME to the Ward Hadaway Greater Manchester Fastest 50 for 2017.

This is the fourth year in which we have run this awards scheme in association with Greater Manchester Business Week and the Manchester Evening News and, once again, the dedication, determination and vision of the region's companies has come shining through.

The 50 privately-owned companies in this list have all grown their turnover every year for the last three years while making a profit for each of those years.

That is no mean achievement in itself, especially bearing in mind the challenges which all of us in business have faced in recent times.

Those listed here are the cream of the crop when it comes to growing their businesses – the fastest growing companies across the circulation area of Greater Manchester Business Week.

Here we have 50 examples of brilliance in business – these companies are blazing a trail when it comes to creating wealth and prosperity, attracting investment and expanding their enterprises.

A glance through this A to Z list reveals the sheer variety of businesses which are helping to drive the region's economy forward.

We have everything from ethical investment companies to IT experts, construction specialists to online retailers, housebuilders to car dealerships – all of whom are thriving in Greater Manchester and

nationwide road haulage, transport, logistics and supply chain services. Based in Warrington, it has additional bases in Glasgow, Preston, Bury, Bootle, Shrewsbury, Tamworth and Doncaster and has clients, including DHL, UK Mail and Sainsbury's.

MediaCo, Manchester

MediaCo is a large format graphics, display and events specialist offering services from artworking, large format



Jamie Martin

the surrounding area. This diversity is an excellent sign for the region – having a broad base of businesses demonstrates how Greater Manchester provides the right kind of environment for companies of all kinds and all sizes to establish and grow.

As voters go to the polls today to elect the first ever Greater Manchester Mayor, this is surely good news for whichever candidate is chosen.

At Ward Hadaway, we have certainly found Manchester a great place to be.

Setting up our office here in 2012 to add to our operations in Leeds

and Newcastle has been crucial to achieving our vision of being a Northern law firm for national business.

We have seen our own firm grow considerably in the past five years and we look forward to continuing on that journey.

Hosting and organising the Ward Hadaway Greater Manchester Fastest 50 helps us to give something back to the region by highlighting its fantastic businesses and celebrating their many successes.

Jamie Martin, Managing Partner at Ward Hadaway

printing, cutting and finishing to installation and logistics for all events, exhibitions, retail, theatres, museums and stadiums.

Mobica, Wilmslow

This software services company has over 800 people working across ten offices worldwide, including its Cheshire headquarters. It provides services including technology consulting and software engineering

and was in the 2016 and 2015 Greater Manchester Fastest 50 lists.

Neuven Solutions, Manchester

Neuven Solutions works to help companies reduce the cost of getting temporary agency and locum staff, acting as a 'neutral vendor'; between employment agencies and businesses looking to bring in staff. It also provides auditing and training services.

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strengthen and grow

wardhadaway
lawfirm

#Fastest50GM

FASTEST 50

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New World Trading Co, Knutsford

This pub and restaurant group owns and operates a string of well-known venues across the UK under the Botanist, Oast House, Smugglers Cove, The Trading House and The Club House brands.

Oliver James Associates, Manchester

Oliver James Associates is a global specialist recruitment partner to the financial services, professional services and commerce and industry sectors. The company was established in 2002 and operates across 12 offices worldwide.

PHMG, Manchester

This company specialises in providing telephone answering and communication services. It has more than 28,000 clients in 39 countries across the world including Jaguar, Audi, Samsung and Adidas.

Premier Automotive, Dukinfield

New and used car dealership Premier Automotive operates five branches covering North and South Manchester and three new car franchises - Kia, Mitsubishi and SsangYong. It also offers car servicing, repairs, parts and accessories.

Raised Floor Solutions, Skelmersdale

This flooring contractor was established in 2003 and provides composite flooring solutions, incorporating steel floor decking, insitu concrete floor slabs on steel decking and raised access flooring. It appeared in the 2016 Fastest 50 and its work can be found in shopping centres, car parks, hotels and health and education developments.



Salford Professional Development, Salford

A subsidiary of the University of Salford, this company offer a range of conference, training and professional development services across sectors including education, health and social care, media and digital, business and law, the built environment and public services.

Sambro International, Bury
Sambro provides a range of licensed

merchandise for retailers including toys, arts and crafts, stationery, bags and wheeled goods. It has showrooms in Holland and Hong Kong in addition to its Bury site.

Schmitz Cargobull (UK) Ltd, Warrington

This company provides a range of new and used trailers for use in the transportation and logistics industry. It also supplies vehicle servicing and tracking facilities.

Stackright Ltd, Skelmersdale

Stackright Ltd specialises in site storage and accommodation facilities from secure toilets, offices and canteens to telecommunications housing. Its clients include some of the major cabin hire companies across the UK.

Sustainable Group UK Ltd, Skelmersdale

Sustainable Group (UK) Limited is a building and property maintenance contractor with particular expertise in creating modern, energy-efficient buildings. Established in 1976, the company works with a range of developers, housing associations and local authorities.

The Hut Group, Northwich

This online health and beauty retailer sells a range of goods under brands including MyProtein, Mass and MyVitamins. It has over 1.6 million customers worldwide and 400 million

visits to its websites each year.

Together, Cheadle

Together was founded in 1974 and is a specialist lender, offering short-term finance, auction finance, personal, commercial and buy-to-let mortgages and secured loans. It employs more than 460 people and has a loan book topping £1.8bn.

Trak (Global Solutions) Ltd, Crewe

Trak Global Group is one of the world's largest providers of telematics solutions for the insurance, fleet, rental and automotive industries. Launched in 2009, the company operates in six countries, with over 200,000 assets deployed and over 230 staff.

Venturi Group, Wilmslow

Venturi is an IT staffing service which specialises in business intelligence and niche technological recruitment. Its clients range from SMEs to major companies in a range of sectors including banking and financial services, travel and retail, construction, manufacturing, education and healthcare. It appeared in the 2016 Fastest 50.

Workforce People Solutions, Bolton

Founded in 2006, Workforce People Solutions specialises in sourcing skilled workers for UK organisations in sectors including furniture, textiles and automotive. It has worked with clients such as McLaren and Aston Martin.

Matthew Moulding, CEO, The Hut Group

