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Technology, Media & Telecommunications

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# Teaming to win

Technology Fast 500 EMEA Ranking  
and CEO Survey 2006

*Powering ahead*



Audit • Tax • Consulting • Financial Advisory •

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# Foreword

Welcome to the 2006 Deloitte Technology Fast 500 EMEA, the most comprehensive and respected ranking of the region's fastest-growing technology companies. The DTT TMT industry group incorporates data about companies from 21 countries in this, our sixth annual ranking.

The 2006 winners – ranked according to their revenue performance over five years – show exceptional growth. Average five-year revenue growth for all companies over the last five years was 1,396 percent, and the top five firms showed spectacular average revenue growth rates of over 34,000 percent. No wonder that, in this year's survey of Fast 500 CEOs, confidence in maintaining growth for the foreseeable future has reached 87 percent – an all time high for the region.

This year sees a good spread of fascinating technology-driven businesses in the top five companies. These are companies which clearly reflect the capacity of technology to change our lives for the better. Semi-conductor development; smart, simple Internet marketing solutions; a spectrum of scalable wireless IT services; user-friendly satellite navigation solutions; intensely commercial solar power cells. These all give us a taste of a better future.

As we do every year, the DTT TMT industry group also gives you some insights into what drives these remarkable businesses, with our sixth annual survey of Fast 500 CEOs. The CEOs took time out to tell us their hopes, fears and ambitions. They give us their views on issues ranging from critical success factors and challenges to macro-economic trends and emerging sectors, and also a brief glimpse into what makes them the inspirational leaders that they undoubtedly are.

Technology makes lives better – there is no doubt about it. But technology without business acumen tends to gather dust on the shelf. We would like to congratulate all of these remarkable businesses on getting the mixture right and wish them success in their mission to change lives for the better.



**Igal Brightman**  
Global Managing Partner  
Technology, Media &  
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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Igal Brightman".



**Eric Morgain**  
Partner in Charge of  
Deloitte Technology Fast  
500 EMEA and Deloitte  
France Partner

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric Morgain".



# Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu's (DTT) Global (TMT) industry group at a glance

## Global presence

- DTT member firms, with TMT practices in over 45 countries, have more than 5,000 partners, directors and senior managers supported by thousands of other professionals dedicated to serving TMT companies.
- Centers of excellence in the Americas, Europe, Middle East and Africa and Asia Pacific.

## Multidisciplinary capabilities

- Assurance & Audit.
- Risk Consulting.
- Tax.
- Business & IT Consulting.
- Financial Advisory/Corporate Finance.
- Mergers & Acquisitions.
- Sarbanes-Oxley compliance.

## Key operating principles

- Committed to integrity and independence.
- Unrivaled multidisciplinary approach.
- Committed to strengthening the public trust.
- Focused on creativity and innovation.
- Recognized as employer of choice.

## Member firm clients

- DTT member firms serve over 90 percent of the TMT companies in the Fortune Global 500.
- Clients of member firm TMT practices include some of the world's top software manufacturers, computer manufacturers, wireless operators, satellite broadcasters, advertising agencies and semiconductor producers.
- Member firm TMT clients also include global leaders in media, entertainment, publishing, technology services, information services, service provision (mobile, fixed, cable and Internet), telecommunications and peripheral equipment manufacturing.



# Technology, Media & Telecommunications

## Recent thought leadership

- Global trends in venture capital 2006 survey.
- Protecting the digital assets: The 2006 Technology, Media and Telecommunications survey.
- Eye to the future: How TMT advances could change the way we live in 2010.
- Be prepared: Imperatives for TMT Executives, 2005-2010 Flying High: 2006 Global Survey of CEOs in the Deloitte Technology Fast 500.
- TMT Predictions 2006: A focus on the technology sector.
- TMT Predictions 2006: A focus on the media sector.
- TMT Predictions 2006: A focus on the telecommunications sector.
- The trillion dollar challenge: Principles for profitable convergence.
- Television networks in the 21st Century: Growing critical mass in a fragmenting world.

## Commitment to growing companies

- Across the world, DTT member firms operate programs and initiatives to promote growing companies, including the Technology Fast 50 and Technology Fast 500 programs.
- These programs recognize the fastest growing TMT companies in geographic countries and in the regions of North America, EMEA and Asia Pacific.
- Technology Fast 500 Global CEO Survey is a report prepared which provides a global comparison of the three regional CEO surveys.

# Fast facts

## This year's winners

1. MX Telecom Ltd	UK	57,940%	Wireless IT services
2. Q-Cells AG	Germany	33,019%	Solar power solutions
3. TomTom NV	Netherlands	29,519%	Satellite navigation solutions
4. Komdat GmbH	Germany	27,865%	Internet marketing
5. Wintegra	Israel	22,422%	Semiconductors

This was one of our best years ever in EMEA, in terms of high-growth technology company performance. Average growth rates across all 500 ranked firms was 1,396 percent, an increase of 49 percent on last year. Average five-year growth rates for the top five firms were a remarkable 34,153 percent.



## Sectoral trends

Sector	Number of firms in F500 by business type				Percentage of firms in F500 by business type			
	2006	2005	2004	2003	2006	2005	2004	2003
Software	223	234	208	213	44.6	47.2	41.6	42.6
Communications/Networking	82	79	74	68	16.4	15.8	14.8	13.6
Other	69	51	59	72	13.8	10.2	11.8	14.4
Internet/media	57	47	58	60	11.4	9.4	11.6	12.0
Life Sciences/Biotech	30	45	64	44	6.0	8.8	12.8	8.8
Semiconductor Equipment	29	25	20	30	5.8	4.8	4.0	6.0
Computers/Peripherals	10	19	17	13	2.0	3.8	3.4	2.6

The same sectors continue to shine. The software sector drives the most growth, with a 44.6 percent share of the ranking, followed by communications and networking, which improves its share slightly over last year with 16.4 percent of EMEA Fast 500 ranked companies.

Country performance trends				
Business location	2006	2005	2004	2003
UK	91	59	149	90
France	84	131	126	171
Germany	58	41	29	32
Netherlands	49	39	29	36
Israel	44	34	31	18
Sweden	39	48	25	19
Norway	35	50	50	48
Rep of Ireland	23	36	25	22
Turkey	21	–	–	–
Finland	21	21	5	11
Poland	12	14	3	7
Czech Republic	9	9	6	12
Slovakia	6	6	7	5
Russia	5	3	1	1
Hungary	2	2	1	1
Latvia	1	1	2	3
Denmark	0	5	3	7
Portugal	0	1	1	0

The UK has the most ranked companies managing 91 of the 500 closely followed by France with 84 – a reversal of last year's country positions. German, Dutch and Israeli firms continue to feature more strongly year on year.

Country per Capita Performance Ranking 2006 *				
Business location	Ranked businesses 2006	Population (nearest million)*	Ratio	Ranking
Norway	35	5	7.0	1
Israel	44	7	6.3	2
Rep of Ireland	23	4	5.8	3
Sweden	39	9	4.4	4
Finland	21	5	4.2	5
Netherlands	49	16	3.1	6
UK	91	59	1.5	7
France	84	60	1.4	8
Slovakia	6	5	1.2	9
Czech Republic	9	10	0.9	10
Germany	58	83	0.7	11
Latvia	1		0.5	12
Turkey	21	71	0.3	13
Poland	12	39	0.3	14
Hungary	2	10	0.2	15
Russia	5	143	0.03	16
Denmark	0	5	0	17
Portugal	0	10	0	17

\*Source of population data: The Economist, 2006

The technology sectors in Scandinavia, Israel and Ireland are clearly extremely successful.



# Powering Ahead: Top 5 companies



Founded in June 2000, MX Telecom is a leader in the field of wireless technology, providing specialist wireless IT services to various corporate clients. MX Telecom works with Mobile Operators, Content Providers, Internet Service Providers, Corporations, Data Vendors and Internet Companies around the world, implementing wireless solutions.

MX Telecom offers an easily accessed Gateway to voice and data messaging services, including 2-Way SMS and Premium SMS, Multimedia Messaging, Interactive Voice Response Service, Video Short Codes, Location Services and Internet and TV related solutions.

Originally founded with expertise in SMS, MX Telecom has kept pace with all of the developments in the wireless world. It has a proven ability to open up exciting and profitable new dimensions of its clients' business offerings as soon as new technologies become commercially available.

MX Telecom has also developed several hosted applications that enable its clients to run various mobile services. These applications are hosted on secure MX Telecom servers and are connected directly to its gateways. All MX Telecom services and products are designed, developed and maintained in-house, so complete control over application development, bespoke plug-ins and future development can be maintained.

MX Telecom maintains excellent relationships with all the UK mobile network operators and can provide highly reliable gateways and hosted applications, customised to its clients' requirements, for any SMS, MMS, Voice or Video mobile service.



Founded in 1999, Q-Cells is now the second largest producer of solar cells worldwide. In 2006 the company with its nearly 900 employees plans to produce mono- and poly-crystalline solar cells with a total capacity of 255 Megawattpeak (MWp). Q-Cells provides independent solar module producers around the world with high-quality solar cells.

Nearly 100 scientists and engineers are working on constantly advancing the technology in order to achieve Q-Cells' goal: to rapidly and permanently reduce the costs of photovoltaics and thus to make the technology affordable and competitive in energy markets. Q-Cells also commercializes new and promising PV technologies, either through associates or subsidiaries.





TomTom NV is a leading provider of personal navigation products and services. TomTom's products are developed with an emphasis on innovation, quality, ease of use and value. TomTom's products include all-in-one navigation devices which enable customers to navigate right out of the box; these are the award-winning TomTom GO family, the TomTom ONE and the TomTom RIDER. TomTom also provides navigation software products which integrate with third party devices; the TomTom NAVIGATOR software for PDA's and smartphones. TomTom PLUS, is the location-based content and services offering for TomTom's navigation products. TomTom WORK combines industry leading communication and smart navigation technology with leading edge tracking and tracing expertise. TomTom's products are sold through a network of leading retailers in 20 countries and online. TomTom was founded in 1991 in Amsterdam and has offices in Europe, North America and Asia Pacific.



As one of Europe's leading Online Marketing Agencies Komdat GmbH, headquartered in Munich, focuses on innovative online marketing services and combines it with a wide range of efficient technological solutions and strategic consulting. Regarding the client's unique needs, capabilities and business model Komdat empowers its clients to use the online channel successfully as an efficient business tool and helps to exceed their online marketing goals. Komdat was founded in 2000 by Holger Aurich and currently employs over 50 specialists in online marketing, software engineering, and e-consulting. In 2005 Martin Stoehr joined Holger Aurich as Managing Director.



Wintegra™ is a fabless semiconductor and software company enabling the next generation of access networks with its family of access processors. Built by an experienced team of hardware and software engineers, Wintegra's WinPath™ access processors allow equipment carriers to migrate from legacy networks to IP without jeopardizing current revenue or services. Wintegra customers can quickly design cost effective solutions for fast time to market with rich built-in functionality; or WinPath can be programmed by Wintegra or by the customer for customized applications and specific optimizations. Wintegra's multi-protocol functionality and interworking features tailored to the needs of access networking equipment bring greater affordability, flexibility, and performance to such equipment as wireless base stations, media gateways, DSL access multiplexors, multi-service switches, passive optical networks, and access routers. The WinPath access packet processor family was introduced in 4Q01, with customer sampling and Tier 1 customers already in place. Wintegra's customer list includes many of the largest communications companies in the world. Wintegra achieved profitability in mid 2005.

# Deloitte Technology Fast 500 EMEA Ranking

F500	Company	Business type	Country	Five year % growth
1	MX Telecom Ltd	Other	United Kingdom	57,940%
2	Q-Cells AG	Other	Germany	33,019%
3	TomTom NV	Software	Netherlands	29,519%
4	Komdat GmbH	Internet	Germany	27,865%
5	Wintegra	Semiconductor/equipment	Israel	22,422%
6	hotel.de AG	Internet	Germany	20,392%
7	Syneron Medical	Life sciences/Biotech	Israel	18,984%
8	Xsil	Semiconductor/equipment	Rep of Ireland	17,333%
9	Netviewer GmbH	Software	Germany	13,973%
10	carmunity.com GmbH	Communications/networking	Germany	13,900%
11	Jobpartners	Internet	United Kingdom	8,308%
12	SULAKE CORPORATION	Internet	Finland	8,095%
13	Blue Media Sp. z o.o.	Software	Poland	7,591%
14	Travelplanet.pl SA	Internet	Poland	7,379%
15	Mobilera Bilişim İltişim Teknolojileri A.Ş.	Communications/networking	Turkey	6,764%
16	PRIZEE.COM	Communications/networking	France	6,578%
17	Zylom Media Group BV	Media/entertainment	Netherlands	6,413%
18	Comtec Enterprises	Communications/networking	United Kingdom	5,925%
19	WEBHELP	Software	France	5,561%
20	gate5 AG	Software	Germany	5,423%
21	IFonline Group Limited (dba Trigold)	Software	United Kingdom	5,251%
22	Zanox.de AG	Other	Germany	5,000%
23	Orexo AB	Life sciences/Biotech	Sweden	4,935%
24	mobileview AG	Software	Germany	4,895%
25	QUESTICO AG	Communications/networking	Germany	4,875%
26	Runcom technology	Semiconductor/equipment	Israel	4,846%
27	Mediaburst	Communications/networking	United Kingdom	4,448%
28	Emexus	Software	Netherlands	4,063%
29	ICTroom Company B.V.	Other	Netherlands	3,955%
30	Internet Mall, a.s.	Internet	Czech Republic	3,945%

F500	Company	Business type	Country	Five year % growth
31	SIDETRADE	Software	France	3,830%
32	Exasoft Plc	Software	United Kingdom	3,813%
33	Affiliate Window Limited	Other	United Kingdom	3,780%
34	Box Telematics Ltdd	Other	United Kingdom	3,620%
35	ISM eCompany	Internet	Netherlands	3,595%
36	Digiweb	Communications/networking	Rep of Ireland	3,498%
37	s2s Limited	Communications/networking	United Kingdom	3,488%
38	Eyeblaster	Internet	Israel	3,459%
39	ARKADIN	Communications/networking	France	3,438%
40	tolina GmbH	Software	Germany	3,301%
41	Appium AB	Communications/networking	Sweden	3,157%
42	Traffic4u	Internet	Netherlands	3,040%
43	Alma Lasers	Life sciences/Biotech	Israel	3,038%
44	amaxa GmbH	Life sciences/Biotech	Germany	3,001%
45	WWMW e-commerce international GmbH	Life sciences/Biotech	Germany	2,950%
46	Actimize	Software	Israel	2,902%
47	PARROT	Communications/networking	France	2,830%
48	Espion Intelligence	Other	Rep of Ireland	2,827%
49	Volantis Systems Ltd	Software	United Kingdom	2,821%
50	Veri Park	Software	Turkey	2,730%
51	Bizitek	Software	Turkey	2,717%
52	TRACE ONE	Software	France	2,617%
53	TTY Internet Solutions BV	Software	Netherlands	2,495%
54	freenet.de	Internet	Germany	2,459%
55	TeraGate AG	Communications/networking	Germany	2,453%
56	AWAK IT	Communications/networking	France	2,428%
57	Red Bend Software	Software	Israel	2,413%
58	XL TECHNIQUES	Other	France	2,375%
59	o2.pl Sp. z o.o.	Internet	Poland	2,356%
60	Trilogical Technologies	Communications/networking	Israel	2,213%
61	Pulselearning	Other	Rep of Ireland	2,143%
62	MIHAB AB	Software	Sweden	2,141%
63	Coding Technologies AB	Software	Sweden	2,122%
64	Itemfield	Software	Israel	2,114%
65	CIDERCONE OY	Software	Finland	2,086%

F500	Company	Business type	Country	Five year % growth
66	ENTE Sp. z o.o.	Semiconductor/equipment	Poland	2,018%
67	DIGIUM	Software	Finland	1,959%
68	Cleverlance Enterprise Solutions a.s.	Software	Czech republic	1,942%
69	Ableton AG	Software	Germany	1,840%
70	Netnation Europe	Internet	Netherlands	1,837%
71	Moniforce Nederland B.V.	Software	Netherlands	1,825%
72	Funda N.V.	Internet	Netherlands	1,820%
73	ITpreneurs Nederland B.V.	Software	Netherlands	1,776%
74	Surgical Science Sweden AB	Life sciences/Biotech	Sweden	1,738%
75	Given Imaging	Life sciences/Biotech	Israel	1,733%
76	NETSIZE	Communications/networking	France	1,706%
77	Saifun Semiconductors	Semiconductor/equipment	Israel	1,694%
78	Jumar Solutions Europe Ltd	Software	United Kingdom	1,675%
79	Coolblue b.v.	Internet	Netherlands	1,621%
80	Zamano	Other	Rep of Ireland	1,585%
81	1000 MERCIS	Communications/networking	France	1,524%
82	Exent Technologies	Software	Israel	1,492%
83	Exoftware	Other	Rep of Ireland	1,454%
84	Componence BV	Software	Netherlands	1,441%
85	Bigmouthmedia	Other	United Kingdom	1,436%
86	Money.pl Sp. z o.o.	Internet	Poland	1,428%
87	Bookings Europe B.V.	Internet	Netherlands	1,408%
88	conVISUAL AG	Communications/networking	Germany	1,405%
89	WEBRASKA	Software	France	1,396%
90	Newsweaver	Internet	Rep of Ireland	1,392%
91	Exciting Site Technologies AB	Software	Sweden	1,380%
92	OY REAGENA LTD	Life sciences/Biotech	Finland	1,351%
93	WCUBE-EQUESTO	Software	France	1,337%
94	Elit Bilgisayar ve Yönetim Danışmanlığı Hizmetleri Turizm Otomotiv İç ve Dis Ticaret Ltd. Şti	Software	Turkey	1,335%
95	MESH Solutions GmbH	Communications/networking	Germany	1,309%
96	Tribal	Internet	Netherlands	1,301%
97	Red Gate Software	Software	United Kingdom	1,300%
98	SOVEP	Life sciences/Biotech	France	1,288%
99	msystems	Semiconductor/equipment	Israel	1,276%

F500	Company	Business type	Country	Five year % growth
100	ErSol Solar Energy AG	Other	Germany	1,228%
101	Puca Technologies	Other	Rep of Ireland	1,211%
102	FUTURICE	Software	Finland	1,187%
103	ULLINK	Software	France	1,176%
104	Cyber-Ark Software	Software	Israel	1,158%
105	COMPAGNIE DU VENT	Other	France	1,154%
106	iBusiness AB	Software	Sweden	1,149%
107	Topicus Groep	Software	Netherlands	1,139%
108	Grupa Pracuj	Internet	Poland	1,132%
109	D-Market Elektronik Hizmetler ve Tic. A.Ş.	Internet	Turkey	1,123%
110	RUBISOFT	Communications/networking	France	1,119%
111	Wavex Technology Limited	Other	United Kingdom	1,113%
112	Scandpower Petroleum Technology AS	Software	Norway	1,104%
113	ESET spol. s r.o.	Software	Slovak Republic	1,100%
114	Ergosis Guvenlik Sistemleri Ltd. Sti.	Other	Turkey	1,094%
115	Solon AG für Solartechnik	Other	Germany	1,085%
116	CVO Group	Internet	Hungary	1,073%
117	Diamo AB	Software	Sweden	1,028%
118	Mercell AS	Semiconductor/equipment	Norway	1,012%
119	IPANEMA TECHNOLOGIES	Communications/networking	France	987%
120	Pharmacy2U Limited	Other	United Kingdom	950%
121	LINAGORA	Software	France	929%
122	Dap Technology B.V.	Communications/networking	Netherlands	928%
123	REAKTOR INNOVATIONS OY	Software	Finland	928%
124	Complan Network AS	Software	Norway	922%
125	ROL Solutions Limited	Other	United Kingdom	921%
126	DOUBLE TRADE	Software	France	921%
127	Birdstep Technology ASA	Software	Norway	918%
128	XAPT HUNgary Kft.	Software	Hungary	918%
129	Pertmaster Ltd	Software	United Kingdom	917%
130	StarHome	Communications/networking	Israel	913%
131	PCS Business Systems Ltd	Other	United Kingdom	909%
132	NEUF CEGETEL	Communications/networking	France	905%
133	FASTRAX OY	Semiconductor/equipment	Finland	901%
134	TNS Distribution	Other	Rep of Ireland	898%

F500	Company	Business type	Country	Five year % growth
135	Chess plc	Communications/networking	United Kingdom	885%
136	IPESOFT, s.r.o.	Software	Slovak Republic	885%
137	Zen Internet	Internet	United Kingdom	872%
138	GENEART AG	Life sciences/Biotech	Germany	871%
139	Micronit Microfluidics B.V.	Other	Netherlands	854%
140	RaySearch Laboratories AB (publ)	Life sciences/Biotech	Sweden	852%
141	Itrix	Software	Netherlands	842%
142	Nexum Bogaz	Internet	Turkey	841%
143	X-Hive Corporation	Software	Netherlands	831%
144	BookAssist	Software	Rep of Ireland	826%
145	EASII	Software	France	823%
146	Nexus Oncology Ltd	Life sciences/Biotech	United Kingdom	821%
147	Mobile Fun Limited	Communications/networking	United Kingdom	817%
148	HANTRO PRODUCTS OY	Semiconductor/equipment	Finland	811%
149	Pricer AB	Communications/networking	Sweden	803%
150	Tilgin AB	Communications/networking	Sweden	790%
151	EQSN Limited	Communications/networking	United Kingdom	789%
152	Wellton Way AB	Computer/peripherals	Sweden	788%
153	Anglo Design Holdings Plc (AD Group)	Other	United Kingdom	783%
154	Daisycon	Communications/networking	Netherlands	780%
155	WISEO	Software	France	772%
156	Fox-IT Forensic Experts B.V.	Communications/networking	Netherlands	770%
157	Xsens Technologies B.V.	Other	Netherlands	765%
158	AnoxKaldnes Global AB (publ)	Life sciences/Biotech	Sweden	765%
159	Softalk Ltd	Software	United Kingdom	749%
160	Money Penny	Other	United Kingdom	745%
161	GROUPE AFG	Software	France	743%
162	Questback AS	Software	Norway	737%
163	Virtu Secure Webservices B.V.	Internet	Netherlands	736%
164	Compusoft ASA	Software	Norway	733%
165	Globoforce	Software	Rep of Ireland	728%
166	Incordia AB	Internet	Sweden	726%
167	Wolfson Microelectronics plc	Other	United Kingdom	721%
168	Escape Business Technologies	Communications/networking	United Kingdom	708%
169	Link HR Systems	Software	United Kingdom	702%

F500	Company	Business type	Country	Five year % growth
170	Creating Careers Ltd	Other	United Kingdom	701%
171	Clubmessage B.V.	Communications/networking	Netherlands	701%
172	Fackhandelsdata i Stockholm AB	Software	Sweden	691%
173	MetrixLab B.V.	Internet	Netherlands	689%
174	Storage Networking Technologies	Software	Israel	673%
175	DECISION NEW MEDIA	Life sciences/Biotech	France	672%
176	SI AUTOMATION	Software	France	672%
177	TRONIC'S MICROSYSTEMS	Semiconductor/equipment	France	671%
178	Progresstech LLC.	Other	Russia	663%
179	Artemis Intelligent Power Limited	Other	United Kingdom	647%
180	HowardsHome (Knowledge eXchange BV)	Media/entertainment	Netherlands	647%
181	Incredimail	Internet	Israel	639%
182	ARKOON	Software	France	639%
183	Life-Sciences Group NV	Life sciences/Biotech	Netherlands	638%
184	AMADEE AG	Software	Germany	637%
185	Eksim Yuksek Teknoloji Cozumleri Bilgisayar San. Ve Dis. Tic. A.S.	Other	Turkey	631%
186	Cervitrol, AB	Semiconductor/equipment	Sweden	630%
187	Corporater AS	Software	Norway	623%
188	Crannog Software	Software	Rep of Ireland	620%
189	AB SESCA TECHNOLOGIES OY	Software	Finland	619%
190	Morningstar Systems	Software	Netherlands	618%
191	DIGISYS	Software	France	615%
192	Plenware	Software	Finland	611%
193	Treda Bilisim Teknolojileri A.S.	Software	Turkey	610%
194	Noria Software AS	Software	Norway	610%
195	eo Networks Sp. z o.o.	Software	Poland	605%
196	ABRICO	Software	France	605%
197	Adastra	Software	Czech Republic	601%
198	Apt AS	Software	Norway	595%
199	Sarin Technologies	Other	Israel	592%
200	Wind Telecom S.A.	Communications/networking	Poland	592%
201	Definiens AG	Software	Germany	586%
202	gem	Other	United Kingdom	585%
203	osnatel GmbH	Communications/networking	Germany	583%

F500	Company	Business type	Country	Five year % growth
204	Multimap	Internet	United Kingdom	574%
205	REFLEX CES	Software	France	574%
206	connectBlue AB	Communications/networking	Sweden	572%
207	QSC AG	Communications/networking	Germany	560%
208	NAVISTA	Semiconductor/equipment	France	556%
209	Ardentia Limited	Software	United Kingdom	553%
210	AARON GROUP	Software	Czech Republic	551%
211	Symbian Ltd	Software	United Kingdom	550%
212	C.N.S. Systems AB	Software	Sweden	541%
213	Flander Oy	Software	Finland	540%
214	Trimergo BV	Software	Netherlands	537%
215	SwitchCore AB (publ)	Semiconductor/equipment	Sweden	535%
216	WEBORAMA	Communications/networking	France	526%
217	DIGIMIND	Software	France	524%
218	Azzurri Communications Ltd	Communications/networking	United Kingdom	521%
219	Arrk Limited	Other	United Kingdom	514%
220	BIS Limited	Other	United Kingdom	510%
221	teresto media AG	Communications/networking	Germany	506%
222	Green Cathedral plc	Other	United Kingdom	505%
223	Dreampark AB	Software	Sweden	505%
224	ITM Technology AG	Communications/networking	Germany	504%
225	Its Learning AS	Software	Norway	501%
226	INSTA DEFSEC OY	Software	Finland	498%
227	Delticom AG	Internet	Germany	495%
228	USU Software AG	Software	Germany	491%
229	Fibrolan	Communications/networking	Israel	486%
230	TiFiC AB	Software	Sweden	478%
231	Defne Bilgi Islem Urunleri Ltd. Sti.	Software	Turkey	476%
232	ePrint Factory GmbH	Other	Germany	472%
233	sys-pro GmbH	Software	Germany	467%
234	Castle Computer Services Ltd	Software	United Kingdom	464%
235	iPoint-systems GmbH	Software	Germany	462%
236	Infront AS	Software	Norway	461%
237	Opera Software ASA	Software	Norway	459%
238	NetServices Plc	Internet	United Kingdom	453%

F500	Company	Business type	Country	Five year % growth
239	equinux AG	Software	Germany	452%
240	Realtime Technology AG	Software	Germany	446%
241	FIMASYS	Software	France	445%
242	Jungo	Software	Israel	445%
243	PAGE UP	Semiconductor/equipment	France	444%
244	Idium AS	Internet	Norway	444%
245	Buypass AS	Internet	Norway	444%
246	Pumacy Technologies AG	Software	Germany	439%
247	Performa	Software	United Kingdom	438%
248	Trayport Ltd	Software	United Kingdom	428%
249	Rippleffect	Other	United Kingdom	422%
250	Systems Solutions	Software	Rep of Ireland	419%
251	BigHand Ltd	Software	United Kingdom	418%
252	Granula	Life sciences/Biotech	Finland	416%
253	4flow AG	Software	Germany	414%
254	INVERTO AG	Software	Germany	411%
255	Open-E GmbH	Software	Germany	408%
256	Logos a.s.	Software	Czech Republic	407%
257	Propylon Limited	Software	Rep of Ireland	406%
258	Glocalnet AB	Communications/networking	Sweden	400%
259	Merlin.pl SA	Internet	Poland	399%
260	Directski.com	Other	Rep of Ireland	397%
261	Ormat Technologies	Other	Israel	397%
262	Actis Systems	Software	Russia	393%
263	Qbrick AB	Communications/networking	Sweden	393%
264	ecotel communication ag	Other	Germany	391%
265	EMAILVISION	Communications/networking	France	391%
266	Crytek GmbH	Software	Germany	389%
267	Trinicom Group B.V.	Software	Netherlands	387%
268	Zend Technologies	Software	Israel	387%
269	FOGALE-NANOTECH	Semiconductor/equipment	France	386%
270	CAT-AMANIA	Software	France	384%
271	CellaVision AB	Life sciences/Biotech	Sweden	383%
272	iMeta Technologies	Software	United Kingdom	382%
273	GOLDEN EYES	Communications/networking	France	382%

F500	Company	Business type	Country	Five year % growth
274	Eperium Group	Internet	Netherlands	376%
275	Babylon	Software	Israel	376%
276	CoreMedia AG	Software	Germany	375%
277	ASSYSTEM	Software	France	374%
278	Ultrazvuk,s.r.o.	Semiconductor/equipment	Slovak Republic	373%
279	Berkley Technology Ltd (Interfusion Networks)	Communications/networking	Rep of Ireland	373%
280	iMDsoft	Software	Israel	371%
281	INSERTO	Communications/networking	France	371%
282	Lagan Technologies Limited	Other	United Kingdom	370%
283	FTS	Software	Israel	370%
284	ATOMIZ	Software	France	369%
285	Cesky Web, a.s.	Software	Czech Republic	367%
286	CORTIX	Software	France	366%
287	FUTUREMARK OY	Software	Finland	364%
288	Planet Elektronik	Other	Turkey	361%
289	Intelliplan AB	Software	Sweden	358%
290	Griffin Internet	Internet	United Kingdom	356%
291	Tariff Reduction Services Ltd	Communications/networking	United Kingdom	354%
292	Telma Soft	Software	Russia	352%
293	Vianett AS	Software	Norway	348%
294	Bildem Bilgisayar Destekli Müh.ve Müş.Tic.Ltd.Şti.	Software	Turkey	347%
295	Quintiq	Software	Netherlands	344%
296	MIRASYS OY	Software	Finland	342%
297	Internet Engineering Limited T/A Hosting UK	Internet	United Kingdom	342%
298	Fronter AS	Software	Norway	341%
299	SWORD	Software	France	340%
300	Symsoft Holding AB	Communications/networking	Sweden	339%
301	EXALEAD	Software	France	334%
302	Netcall plc	Communications/networking	United Kingdom	332%
303	Axiom Systems Ltd	Software	United Kingdom	331%
304	Infopact Network Solutions	Communications/networking	Netherlands	330%
305	Mermit Business Applications Oy	Software	Finland	328%
306	Cambio Healthcare Systems AB	Software	Sweden	327%
307	Sunways AG	Other	Germany	327%
308	PM Computer Services GmbH & Co.KG	Software	Germany	323%

F500	Company	Business type	Country	Five year % growth
309	Apteco Limited	Software	United Kingdom	322%
310	Net Insight AB	Communications/networking	Sweden	321%
311	PATCHSEE	Communications/networking	France	316%
312	ANILINKER OY	Software	Finland	311%
313	Visionix	Computer/peripherals	Israel	311%
314	ClearForest	Software	Israel	311%
315	Qics Software	Software	Netherlands	310%
316	EFACTE OY	Software	Finland	309%
317	Asiana s.r.o.	Internet	Czech Republic	308%
318	SMART TRADE TECHNOLOGIES	Software	France	306%
319	EUROP'EQUIPEMENT	Other	France	306%
320	VERTICAL-MAIL	Communications/networking	France	304%
321	Megatek Mühendislik San. Tic Ltd Sti	Other	Turkey	304%
322	NITICA	Software	France	304%
323	ECOSYSTEM	Life sciences/Biotech	France	301%
324	OPEN SUGAR	Communications/networking	France	300%
325	Q.I. Press Controls B.V.	Computer/peripherals	Netherlands	300%
326	Cellvision AS	Software	Norway	299%
327	Serengeti Systems Ltd	Software	United Kingdom	299%
328	Swedish Orphan International Holding AB	Life sciences/Biotech	Sweden	299%
329	KORUS-KONFORM	Other	France	298%
330	Biotage AB	Life sciences/Biotech	Sweden	296%
331	Ability Development SK, a.s	Software	Slovak Republic	295%
332	RosBusinessConsulting	Media/entertainment	Russia	295%
333	iQon Technologies Ltd	Computer/peripherals	Rep of Ireland	294%
334	Trolltech ASA	Internet	Norway	293%
335	Mapsolute GmbH	Software	Germany	292%
336	Time Network Management i Ängelholm AB	Communications/networking	Sweden	292%
337	Strencom	Communications/networking	Rep of Ireland	291%
338	Broadnet AG	Internet	Germany	291%
339	REFERENCEMENT.COM	Communications/networking	France	290%
340	Profitbase AS	Software	Norway	288%
341	Aplana Software	Software	Russia	287%
342	New Mind Internet Consultancy Ltd	Other	United Kingdom	287%
343	Xantus Consulting	Communications/networking	United Kingdom	287%

F500	Company	Business type	Country	Five year % growth
344	ITS SEEVIA GROUP	Software	France	287%
345	Bayer Elektronik Bilgi Islem Ltd.Sti.	Computer/peripherals	Turkey	285%
346	Meridio	Software	United Kingdom	285%
347	Compro Bilgi Tek. Bilgi Sist. San ve Tic AS.	Computer/peripherals	Turkey	285%
348	Remotex Technologies AB	Software	Sweden	285%
349	Advatech Sp. z o.o.	Software	Poland	282%
350	IX Europe Plc	Communications/networking	United Kingdom	281%
351	TRANSYSTEME SA	Life sciences/Biotech	France	281%
352	ELKO EP, s.r.o.	Semiconductor/equipment	Czech Republic	280%
353	Anatune Ltd	Other	United Kingdom	278%
354	Computer SOS	Communications/networking	Netherlands	278%
355	BLANCCO OY LTD.	Software	Finland	277%
356	Omega AS	Software	Norway	275%
357	ACS Office Solutions	Other	United Kingdom	275%
358	CogniTens	Other	Israel	275%
359	Allot Communications	Communications/networking	Israel	274%
360	Lipman Electronic Engineering	Computer/peripherals	Israel	274%
361	Unified Messaging Systems AS	Communications/networking	Norway	269%
362	Cardiac AS	Software	Norway	269%
363	ATHIC	Software	France	269%
364	Komputronik Sp. z o.o.	Computer/peripherals	Poland	268%
365	Zoran Corporation	Semiconductor/equipment	Israel	267%
366	Arphiola AS	Semiconductor/equipment	Norway	266%
367	Albany Software Limited	Software	United Kingdom	264%
368	Et netera s.r.o.	Software	Czech Republic	264%
369	LINKBYNET	Communications/networking	France	264%
370	Micromata Objects GmbH	Software	Germany	262%
371	Cristie Electronics Nordic AB	Software	Sweden	262%
372	Fast Search & Transfer ASA	Communications/networking	Norway	261%
373	Eurobate ASA	Communications/networking	Norway	261%
374	PRAETORIUS FRANCE SAS	Software	France	260%
375	Funkwerk AG	Communications/networking	Germany	259%
376	Kahuna Group	Communications/networking	Netherlands	256%
377	HIGHDEAL	Software	France	254%
378	4-Text Software-Lokalisierung und technische Übersetzungen GmbH	Software	Germany	253%

F500	Company	Business type	Country	Five year % growth
379	3Net Ltd	Communications/networking	United Kingdom	251%
380	Empathy Marketing	Other	Rep of Ireland	249%
381	NETASQ	Semiconductor/equipment	France	249%
382	United Internet AG	Internet	Germany	248%
383	01 DIRECT	Software	France	245%
384	C(2) Software Ltd	Software	United Kingdom	245%
385	Acos AS	Software	Norway	244%
386	Telephonetics plc	Other	United Kingdom	242%
387	LASELEC	Semiconductor/equipment	France	240%
388	PLD APPLICATIONS	Semiconductor/equipment	France	239%
389	GX creative online development B.V.	Software	Netherlands	238%
390	Dips ASA	Software	Norway	238%
391	DWS	Software	France	237%
392	IMAP ARMOR (Informatique Maintenance Automatisme Pro)	Life sciences/Biotech	France	237%
393	LGM	Software	France	236%
394	Slovanet, a.s.	Communications/networking	Slovak Republic	236%
395	BioBase GmbH	Life sciences/Biotech	Germany	235%
396	Gecko Informasjonssystemer AS	Software	Norway	235%
397	Telecomputing ASA	Software	Norway	233%
398	Neoventa Medical AB	Life sciences/Biotech	Sweden	232%
399	SARL ACS2I	Software	France	232%
400	WaveLight AG	Other	Germany	230%
401	Sirocom Ltd	Communications/networking	United Kingdom	230%
402	Simulation Systems Ltd	Other	United Kingdom	230%
403	MESATRONIC	Semiconductor/equipment	France	228%
404	Jordan Valley Semiconductors	Semiconductor/equipment	Israel	228%
405	ClinPhone plc	Other	United Kingdom	226%
406	Clavister AB	Software	Sweden	225%
407	Logo Yazilim San Tic AS	Software	Turkey	225%
408	LAWTRONIC LIMITED	Other	United Kingdom	224%
409	AudioCodes	Communications/networking	Israel	224%
410	teltarif.de Onlineverlag GmbH	Internet	Germany	224%
411	Giant Steps	Software	Israel	224%
412	Avitec AB	Semiconductor/equipment	Sweden	223%

F500	Company	Business type	Country	Five year % growth
413	POLYSPACE TECHNOLOGIES	Software	France	222%
414	GOSS Interactive	Software	United Kingdom	221%
415	Methods Consulting Ltd	Other	United Kingdom	221%
416	HintTech	Internet	Netherlands	220%
417	Precise Biometrics AB	Semiconductor/equipment	Sweden	218%
418	DOT GmbH	Life sciences/Biotech	Germany	218%
419	Havelsan A.S.	Software	Turkey	218%
420	ADDCOMP Holland BV	Other	Netherlands	217%
421	Flash Networks	Communications/networking	Israel	217%
422	Sapphire Systems plc	Software	United Kingdom	216%
423	Retalix	Software	Israel	216%
424	Nimbus	Software	United Kingdom	216%
425	MHP Software GmbH	Software	Germany	216%
426	Banksoft	Software	Turkey	214%
427	Valueworks	Internet	United Kingdom	214%
428	Minicom Advanced Systems	Communications/networking	Israel	214%
429	ACTIVIS	Software	France	212%
430	KSU	Internet	Netherlands	211%
431	SED – Société Etudes & Développements	Life sciences/Biotech	France	211%
432	TNG – The Net Generation AG	Software	Germany	211%
433	eCraft	Software	Finland	210%
434	Cramer	Communications/networking	United Kingdom	210%
435	Singularity	Other	United Kingdom	210%
436	Texthelp Systems Limited	Other	United Kingdom	209%
437	FIS Software	Software	Israel	208%
438	aquilaheywood	Other	United Kingdom	208%
439	Datacare Software Group Ltd	Software	Rep of Ireland	208%
440	WINUEL SA	Software	Poland	207%
441	F24 AG	Other	Germany	206%
442	4i2i Communications Ltd	Software	United Kingdom	206%
443	Sentinel Software AS	Software	Norway	204%
444	CEDIP INFRARED SYSTEMS	Life sciences/Biotech	France	203%
445	Smilehouse	Software	Finland	202%
446	AIRCOM International Ltd	Communications/networking	United Kingdom	200%
447	SYNODIANCE	Other	France	200%

F500	Company	Business type	Country	Five year % growth
448	Meteksan Sistem ve Bilgisayar Teknolojileri A.S.	Other	Turkey	199%
449	LECTRIC B.V.	Internet	Netherlands	199%
450	Elis AS	Software	Norway	199%
451	XENOCs	Semiconductor/equipment	France	197%
452	Ceragon Networks	Communications/networking	Israel	197%
453	Galil Medical	Life sciences/Biotech	Israel	197%
454	TALIANCE	Software	France	195%
455	Network Data Ltd	Software	United Kingdom	194%
456	PHODE	Life sciences/Biotech	France	194%
457	ABTEL	Software	France	193%
458	Intec Telecom Systems PLC	Software	United Kingdom	192%
459	Nordnet AB	Internet	Sweden	192%
460	Green Valley	Software	Netherlands	191%
461	AME Applied Micro Electronics	Software	Netherlands	191%
462	Absoft Limited	Software	United Kingdom	189%
463	LUMISON LIMITED	Internet	United Kingdom	189%
464	Imerge B.V.	Internet	Netherlands	188%
465	Themis Ltd	Software	United Kingdom	187%
466	dns	Other	United Kingdom	187%
467	Mapflow	Software	Rep of Ireland	186%
468	Mnemonic AS	Software	Norway	185%
469	Notus Systemer AS	Software	Norway	184%
470	AudioSoft Ltd	Software	United Kingdom	183%
471	Hitit Bilgisayar Hizmetleri	Software	Turkey	182%
472	Ash Technologies	Life sciences/Biotech	Rep of Ireland	181%
473	Norn Integrated Computer Systems AB	Software	Sweden	181%
474	Pulsion Technology Ltd	Software	United Kingdom	180%
475	Shunra Software	Communications/networking	Israel	180%
476	ISRA Vision Systems AG	Software	Germany	178%
477	STERIA SA	Software	France	177%
478	SOITEC	Semiconductor/equipment	France	177%
479	Nedstat B.V.	Software	Netherlands	177%
480	FUTUR TELECOM	Software	France	176%
481	netdirekt e.K.	Internet	Germany	174%
482	Lursoft IT	Internet	Latvia	174%

F500	Company	Business type	Country	Five year % growth
483	Conclusion ICT Projects	Software	Netherlands	174%
484	NICE Systems	Other	Israel	173%
485	The People's Valley	Internet	Netherlands	172%
486	Oridion Systems	Life sciences/Biotech	Israel	172%
487	Expolink Europe Ltd	Other	United Kingdom	172%
488	XTS TELECOM	Communications/networking	France	172%
489	CNS24 AG	Communications/networking	Germany	171%
490	Gat Soft AS	Software	Norway	171%
491	AVT-Advanced Vision Technology	Computer/peripherals	Israel	170%
492	Consorte Group ASA	Communications/networking	Norway	170%
493	Data Market Bilgi Hizmetleri Ltd. Sti.	Computer/peripherals	Turkey	169%
494	Netcetera	Internet	United Kingdom	169%
495	MediaOne Ltd	Internet	Rep of Ireland	168%
496	Intelligent Time Systems Limited	Software	United Kingdom	168%
497	E.ITEC	Semiconductor/equipment	France	168%
498	NETBOOSTER	Communications/networking	France	167%
499	Andor Technology plc	Other	United Kingdom	167%
500	ANASOFT APR	Software	Slovak Republic	166%

# Technology Fast 500 EMEA CEO Survey 2006

## Introduction

What did 2006 hold for the CEOs of EMEA's fastest growing technology businesses? Which critical factors drove or threatened their success? And how do they feel about future opportunities and threats? These and other key questions are answered in this year's Technology Fast 500 EMEA CEO Survey, based on responses from EMEA's Deloitte Fast 500 Technology leaders.

The picture provided by the survey gives fresh inspiration and confidence, as EMEA CEOs this year have greater confidence than in any previous Deloitte Fast 500 EMEA CEO survey, and that's against a backdrop of increasing confidence over the past few years.

About one out of every ten CEOs anticipates being acquired during the next year, and one in ten expects to make an acquisition, but over six out of ten are happy to continue the curve by pursuing organic growth.

They base their confidence, as do all mature businesses, on the quality and motivation of their people. High quality employees make the single greatest contribution to growth, well ahead of leadership, sound strategy and the definition of a unique portfolio. And finding, hiring and retaining these employees is the single biggest operational challenge, providing the lifeblood for the perennial challenge of growing sales. Not surprising that it takes up so much of their energy, when you consider that all companies anticipated an increase in headcount in the next year.

An increasing number of businesses in the ranking have a wholly global perspective on production. Although local (continental) markets continue to be most attractive, the vast majority of CEOs see the advantages of off-shoring certain operations, and are spending a lot of valuable time tackling the typical logistical issues of global businesses.

On a personal level these CEOs again recognize that it is the human factor rather than the technological which powers their success. Key personal challenges for the CEOs are developing and inspiring new leaders, and on a day-to-day level their focus is simply on making the right decisions for the company.

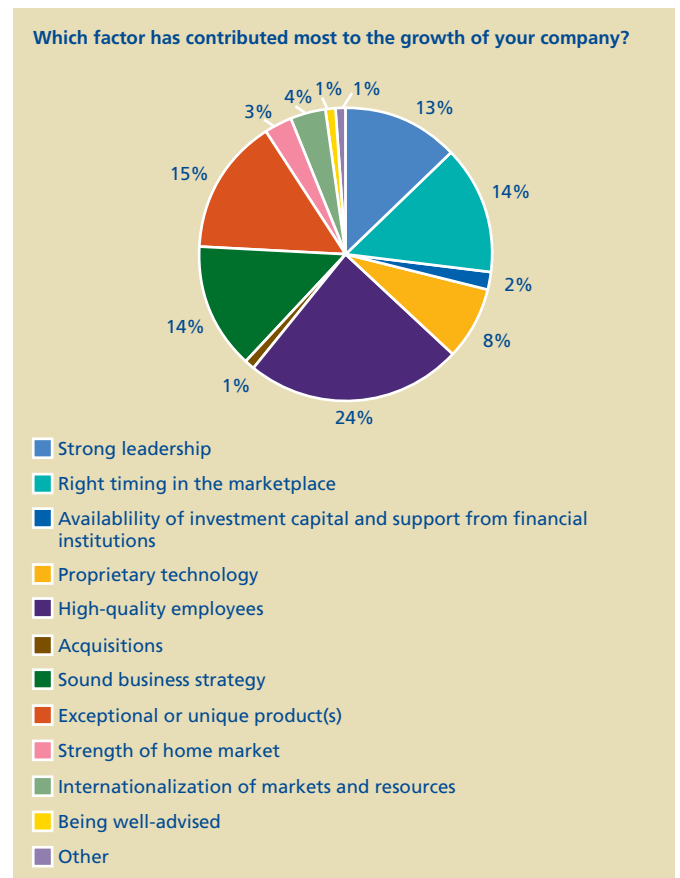
## About the Survey

The Deloitte Technology Fast 500 EMEA Ranking lists the 500 public and private technology, media and telecommunications companies based in Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA) that have achieved the fastest rates of annual revenue growth during the past five years. The Technology Fast 500 program is sponsored by DTT's Global Technology, Media & Telecommunications (TMT) industry group.

Every year since 2001 the DTT TMT industry group has simultaneously surveyed Fast 500 company CEOs to measure their views on the secrets of their success, their hopes and fears for the sector and other key leadership issues. This survey was distributed to all 500 CEOs of the top 500 ranked companies in the EMEA region and was undertaken in the fourth quarter of 2006. Completed by 212 CEOs from across the region, it provides an insight into the issues which CEOs expect will drive the industry forward in 2007 and beyond.

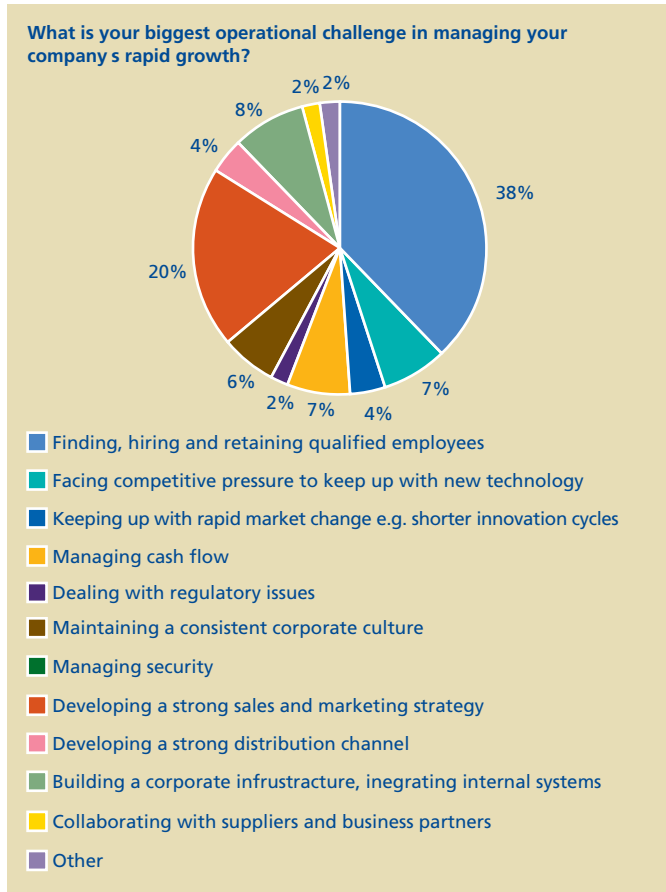
## 1. The X-Factors

**“Finding, hiring and retaining qualified employees is even more important than last year, with an 11 percent increase to 38 percent.”**



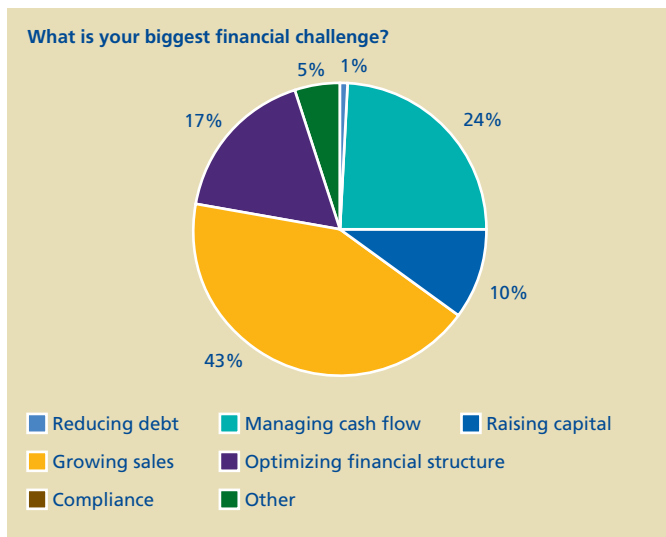
**Feel the quality**

High-quality employees are the key growth factor for around a quarter (24 percent) of CEOs. Strong leadership, exceptional or unique products and a sound business strategy each come some way behind as the key factor for around 14 percent of CEOs.



**Talent spotting**

Finding, hiring and retaining qualified employees are even more important than last year, with an 11 percent increase to 38 percent.



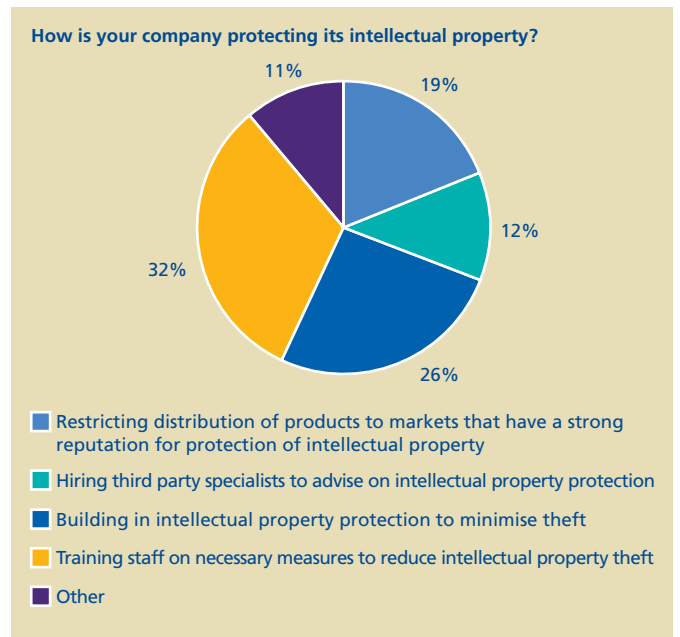
That's the biggest challenge for almost twice as many CEOs as the next choice; developing a strong sales and marketing strategy (20 percent).

**Sell it while it's hot**

Sales remain the biggest financial challenge for these companies, with 43 percent of CEOs regarding it as such. However, "Growing sales" and "Managing cash flow" have slipped down a few points over the past two years, perhaps as a result of the growth in focus on optimizing financial structure (17 percent) which shows an 11 percent rise compared to last year.

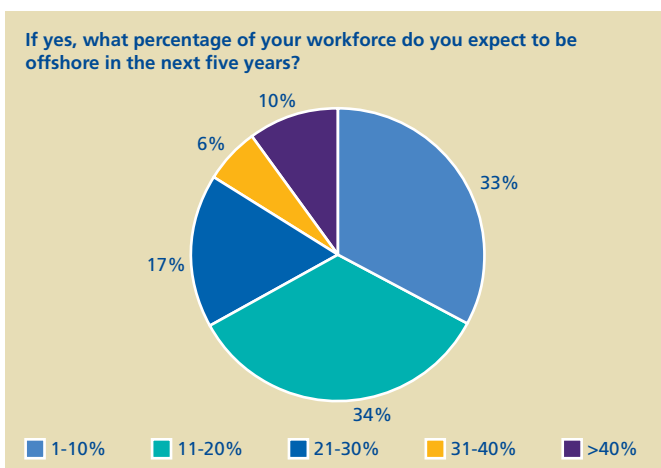
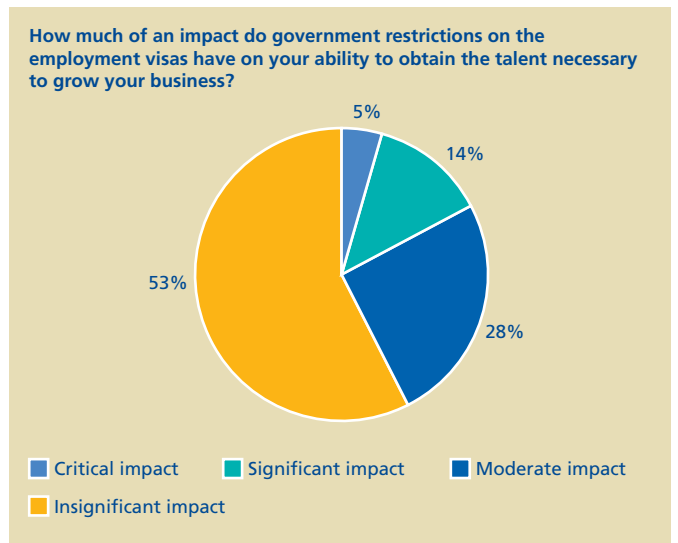
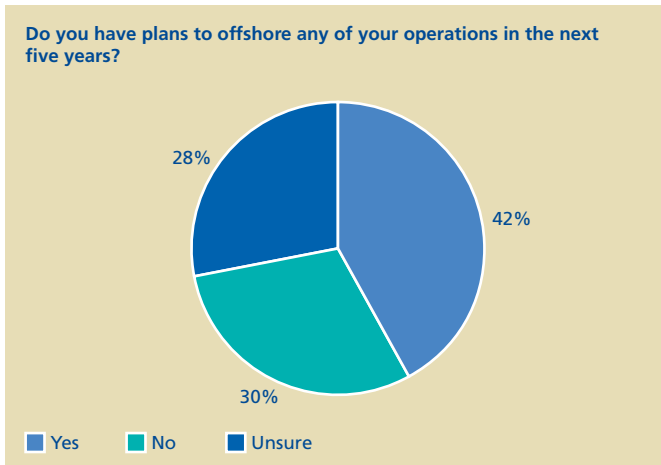
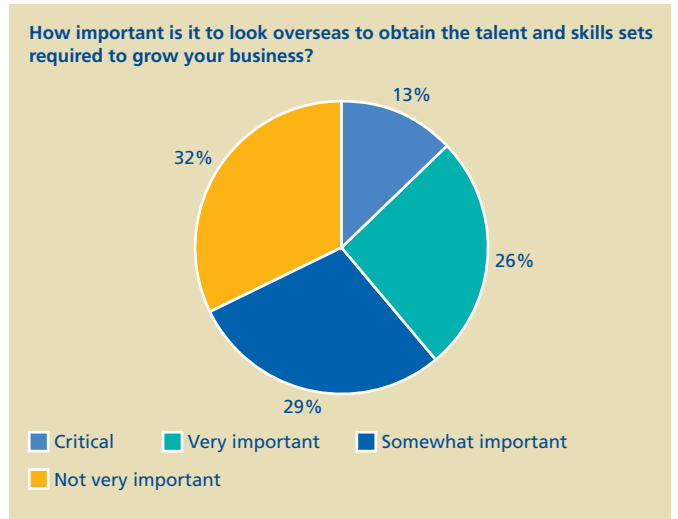
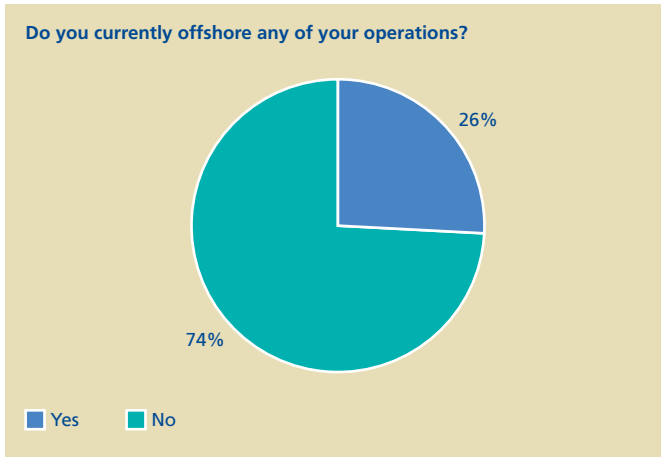
**2. Global horizons**

**"Tech Fast 500 businesses do not see borders as barriers. Over a quarter of Deloitte Fast 500 CEOs offshore part of their operations."**



**Intellectual security**

Intellectual property protection is dealt with in a variety of overlapping ways by CEOs, but the most popular appears to be internally, through training of staff in the necessary measures to reduce intellectual property theft (32 percent). This is closely followed by building intellectual property protection into products (26 percent).

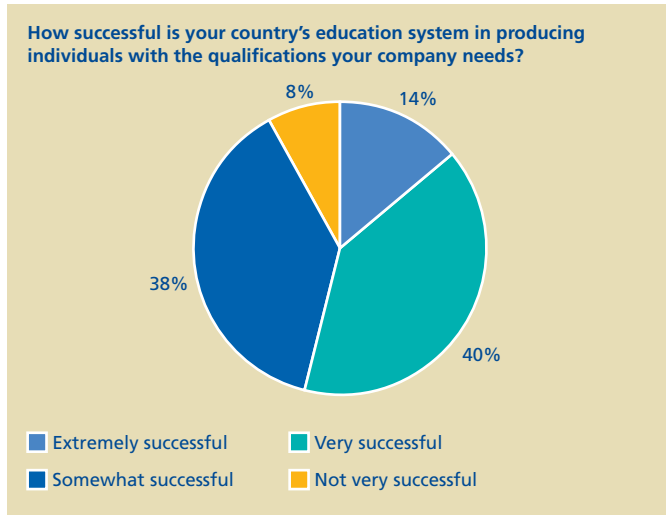


**International talent**

Fast 500 CEOs are vital catalysts for the flow of international talent. 42 percent believe it is either critical or very important to look overseas for talent. Nearly half (47 percent) feel government restrictions on employment visas have some impact on their ability to deploy that talent.

**Beyond country boundaries**

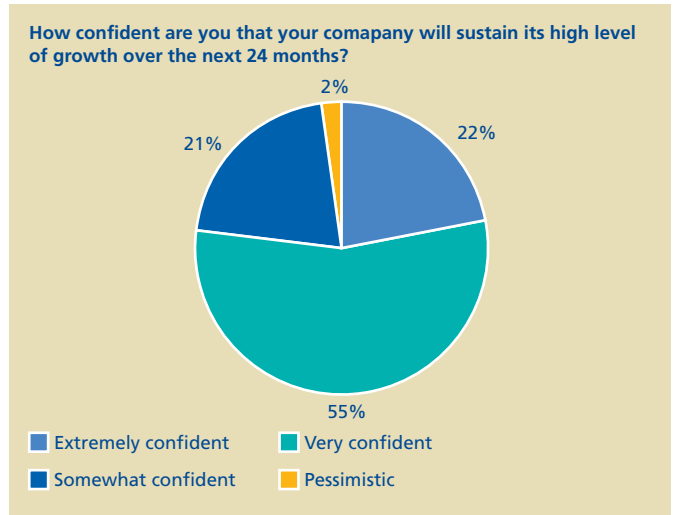
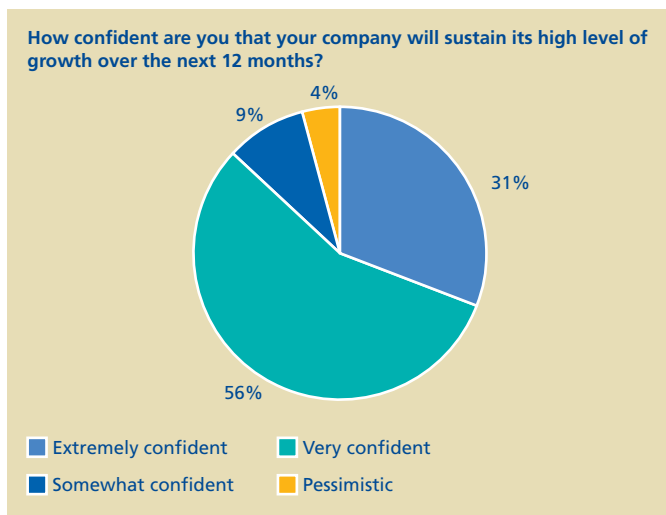
Tech Fast 500 businesses do not see borders as barriers. Over a quarter (26 percent) of Deloitte Fast 500 CEOs offshore part of their operations, and a significant minority (42 percent) has plans to offshore operations in the next five years. Of these, one in ten plans to offshore over 40 percent of operations.



**Home comforts**  
Over half (54 percent) of CEOs regard their national education system as either extremely or very successful in producing individuals of the calibre they require. However, that leaves a substantial minority either unconvinced or entirely unimpressed with their national graduate talent pool.

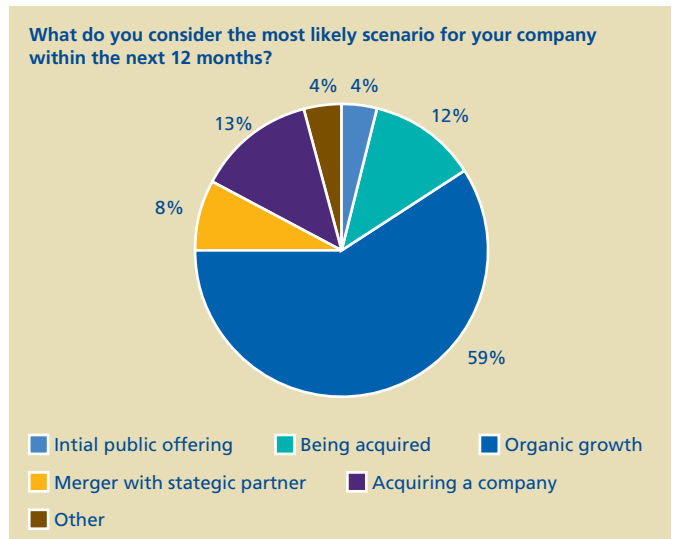
### 3. Looking ahead

**“A record-breaking 87 percent of CEOs are either very confident or extremely confident that they will sustain their exceptional growth rates over the next year.”**



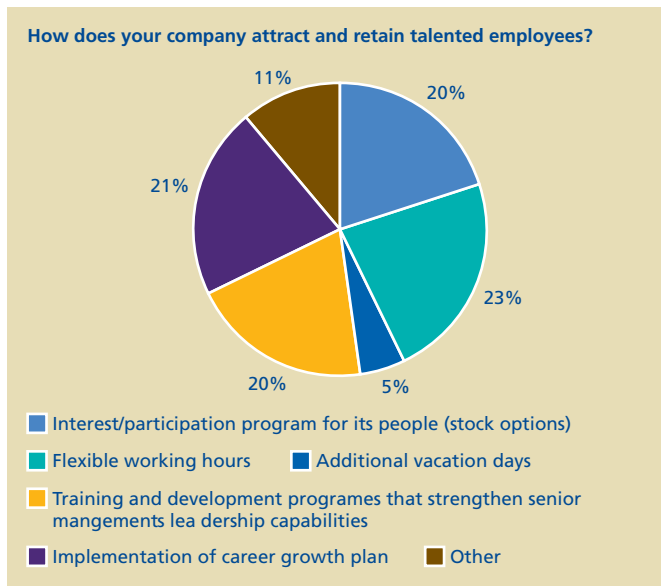
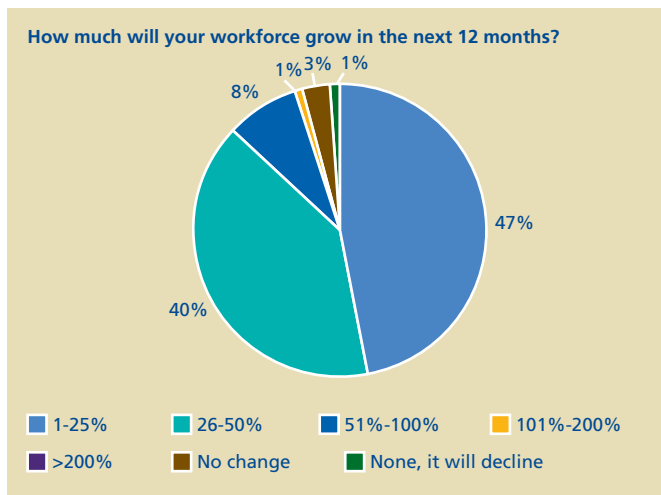
**Record-breaking confidence**  
CEO confidence in sustained growth has reached an all time high. A record-breaking 87 percent of CEOs are either very confident or extremely confident that they will sustain their exceptional growth rates over the next year.

This represents a 5 percent rise in confidence over last year, which was itself a 13 percent increase on the year before. Interestingly, this is 9 percent ahead of confidence levels in this year's Fast 500 CEO Survey in North America.



**Home-grown**  
Organic company growth is still by far the most likely scenario moving forward – for 59 percent of companies. However, businesses are also looking to acquire or be acquired (13 percent and 12 percent respectively) in moderation. The perceived likelihood of being acquired, in particular, has more than doubled since last year.

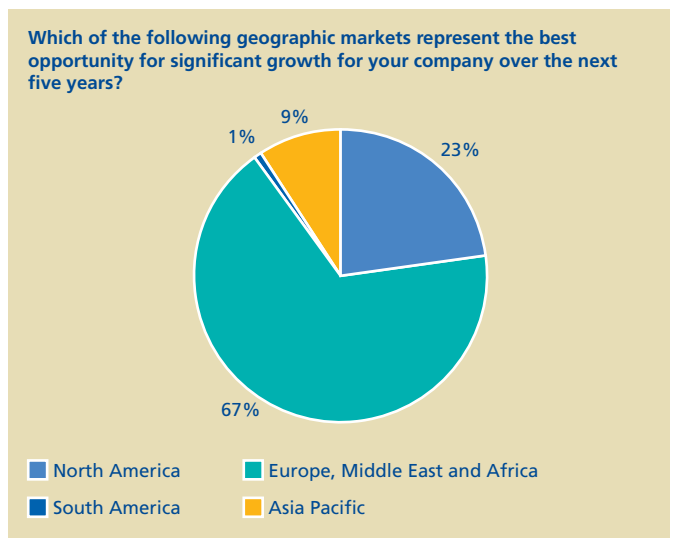
“...around half (49 percent) anticipate headcount growth of over 26 percent during the next year...”



### Expanding headcount

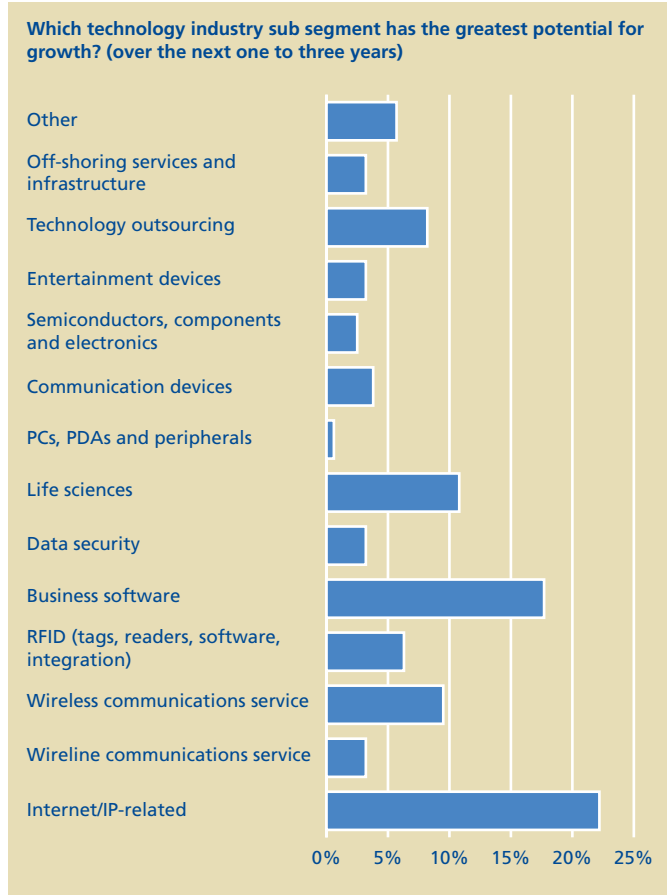
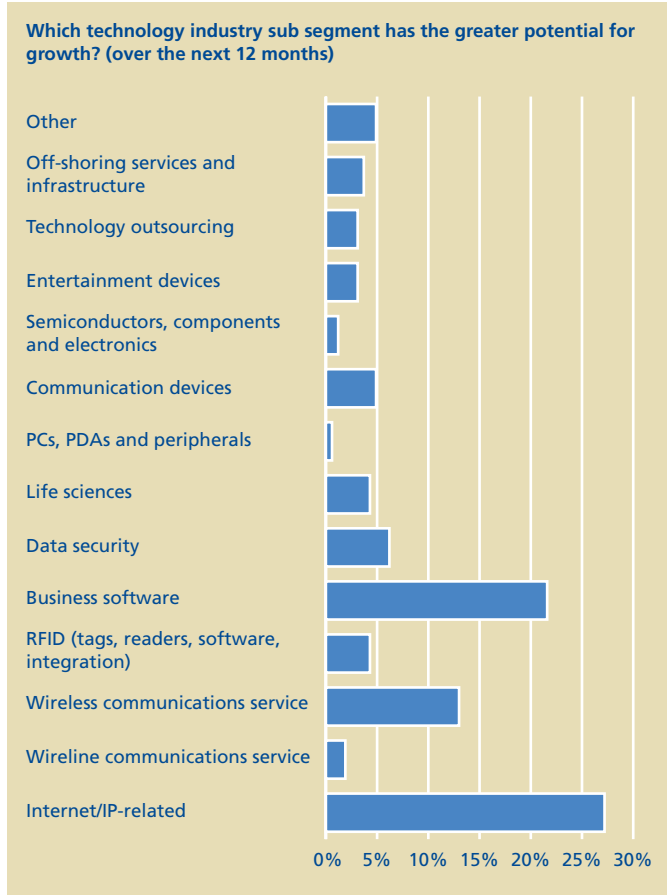
Unsurprisingly, nearly all the companies expect to be growing their headcount during 2006. Of those, around half (49 percent) anticipate headcount growth of over 26 percent during the next year.

Holding on to quality staff is a serious matter. A mix of overlapping techniques are used to attract and retain these key employees, including flexible working hours (23 percent), career growth plans (21 percent) and participation programs such as stock options (20 percent).



### Local focus

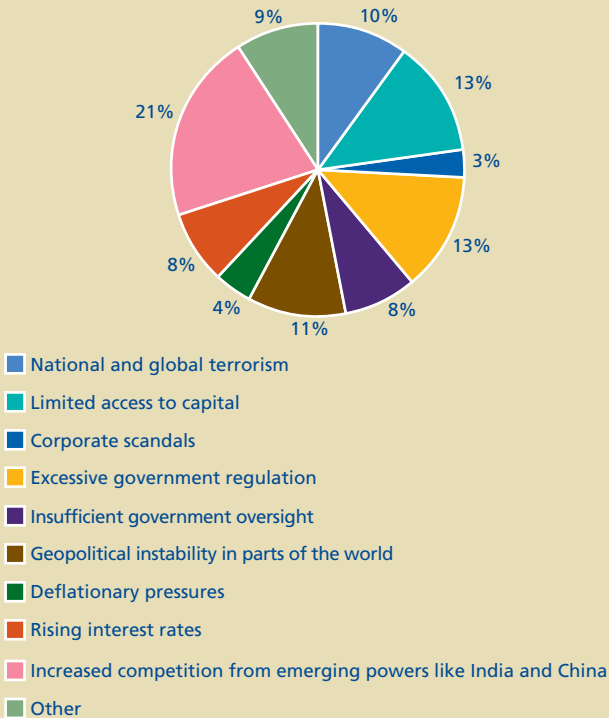
As usual, the best opportunities for EMEA-based companies are seen in the EMEA marketplace (67 percent). North America falls slightly compared to last year at 24 percent and exceptional opportunities in Asia Pacific have grown from 3 percent to 9 percent.



**Top tips**  
 Confidence in Internet/IP-related businesses is marginally higher than last year, with 27 percent of CEOs believing it has the greatest potential for growth in the next year, dropping to 22 percent over the next three years. Business software is also a popular choice for growth for 22 percent of CEOs (18 percent over three years) followed by the wireless services sector (13 percent).



What is the biggest threat to growth in the technology sector over the next 12 months?



“Training and education is the most popular prescription for growth for the first time this year, favoured by 32 percent of CEOs.”

#### Snakes & ladders

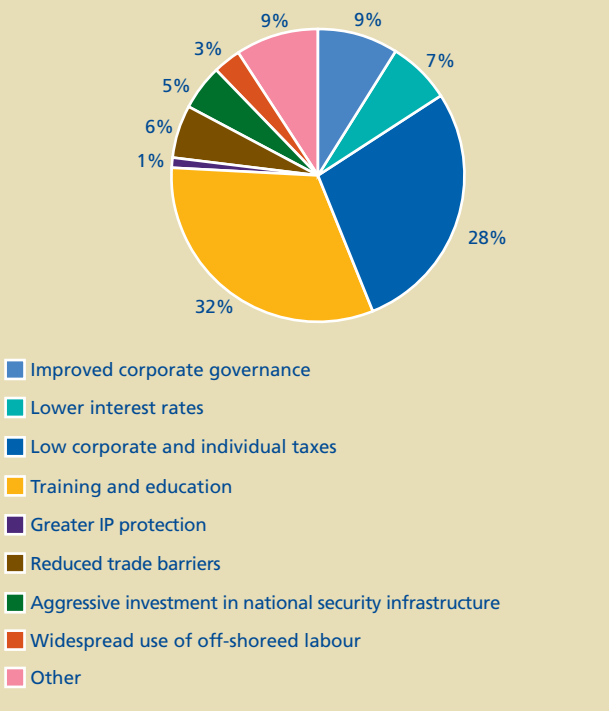
Perceived threats to growth are fairly equally spread among the Fast 500 CEOs. Increased competition from emerging markets like China and India continues to dominate for 21 percent of respondents, followed by limited access to capital (13 percent), excessive government regulation (13 percent), geopolitical instability (11 percent), and terrorism (10 percent). However, the spread of threats this year indicates that there is a manageable mix of threats rather than a single overwhelming one.

Training and education is the most popular prescription for growth for the first time this year, favored by 32 percent of CEOs (up 8 percent on last year). This is followed closely by the usual number one choice, reducing taxes (28 percent).

#### 4. Taking the lead

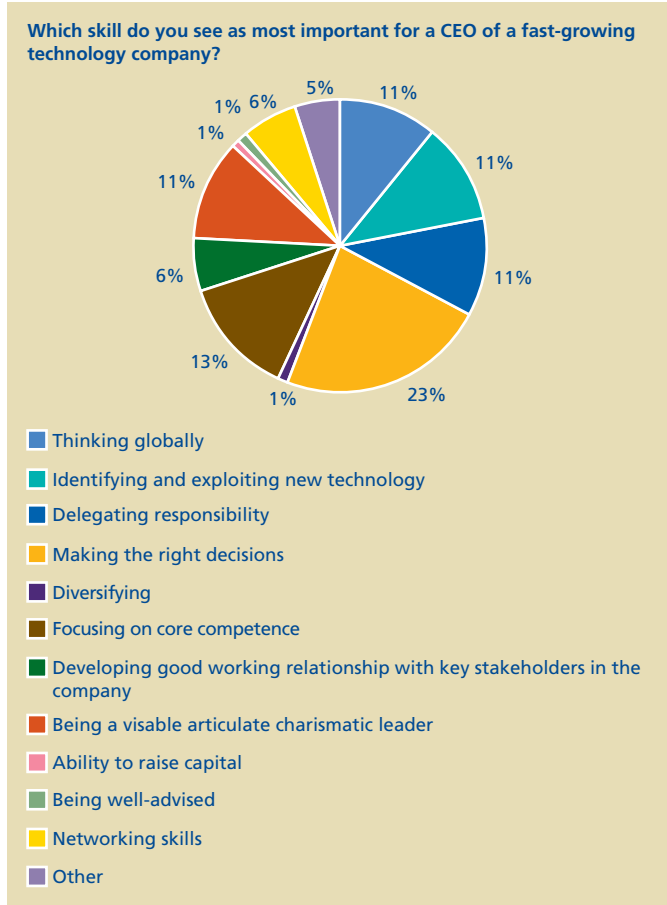
“The buck clearly stops with the CEO. According to the survey 23 percent of CEOs see the quality of their decision-making as their key skill.”

What would you prescribe to stimulate growth in the technology sector in the next 12 months?



What is our biggest personal challenge as CEO?





**Team building**

People continue their steady rise in significance in this year’s survey. The key challenge for 36 percent of CEOs this year is developing leaders and delegating responsibility. That compares to last year’s high of 23 percent. For 17 percent of CEOs the key challenge is to engage employees in the company vision. Down 8 percent this year, having occupied the number one slot since the Fast 500 EMEA CEO survey began, is the challenge of achieving and sustaining profit (17 percent).

**The right call**

The buck clearly stops with the CEO. According to the poll 23 percent of CEOs see the quality of their decision-making as their key skill; the most popular response. This is followed by focusing on core competence (13 percent) and thinking globally, identifying new technologies ,delegating responsibility and being a visible, articulate and charismatic leader are all tied on 11 percent.

**Conclusions**

**Calculated confidence**

CEOs of Fast 500 businesses are showing record-breaking levels of confidence, with 87 percent of CEOs either very confident or extremely confident that they will sustain company growth rates over the next year. When you consider that average five-year growth rates for Fast 500 companies run at 1,396 percent, this outlook is all the more impressive.

And this is not the blind confidence of the start-up. It is the calculated ambition of seasoned professionals who have withstood the bad times and are now flourishing.

**People power**

Nor is this confidence restricted to technological advantage, a position which can often be hard to maintain in a fast-moving market. It rests securely on people. People were perceived as the key to success by CEOs in last year’s survey – but they are even more critical this year.

High-quality employees are the key growth factor for around a quarter of CEOs. Finding, hiring and retaining qualified employees are even more important than last year – the most important operational challenge for 38 percent of CEOs. And, for the first time, the CEO’s traditional key personal challenge of achieving and sustaining profit has given way to developing leaders and delegating responsibility, and engaging employees in the company vision. These are crucial milestone in business approach.

It is also clear from this year’s survey that the location or origin of these people is increasingly irrelevant to the successful CEO. Over a quarter of Fast 500 businesses offshore part of their operations, and many more intend to over the coming years. In addition, 39 percent of CEOs believe it is either critical or very important to look overseas for talent.

**Looking forward**

The maturation of the Internet is undoubtedly behind all of the growth we see. Wired and wireless broadband penetration have blurred the boundary between network and application and opened remarkable new markets for Fast 500 businesses. They have also created a virtuous environment for enhancing internal and partner business processes, increasing competitive advantage for the most innovative businesses.

Between them, nearly half of the CEOs surveyed chose the Internet/IP applications and Business software as the sub-sectors with greatest growth potential. With the spread of ASP software models, these sectors are fast becoming one and the same. And this change in the technological landscape will be driven by confident, dynamic business leaders from the Fast 500.

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