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## Two local companies among fastest-growing

*SouthData makes first appearance on list of the Triad's 50 most rapidly expanding firms*

By PHIL GOBLE JR.  
Managing Editor

**MOUNT AIRY** — Two Surry County companies were recognized Thursday night as being among the fastest growing in the Piedmont Triad region.

John S. Clark Company Inc. and SouthData Inc. both made the top 20 of the list honoring the 50 fastest-growing companies based on revenue growth. The formula for choosing the "Fast 50" included dollar and percentage growth since 2002, according to a notation on the list published Friday in the Triad Business Journal.

John S. Clark was named the No. 6 fastest-growing company, up two spots from last year.

SouthData Inc. came in at No. 17. SouthData was not ranked last year.

"I'm proud of what our company has been able to do," said SouthData President John Springthorpe III, whose company was ranked No. 17. "We were on top of the world last night."

SouthData has grown dramatically since its inception in 1985. In 2000, the company had 12 employees. This year, the

company employs 54 people and plans to add 10 more positions in 2006.

The company will be relocating to a state-of-the-art facility at 201 Technology Lane in Mount Airy on Oct. 24. The new building will give SouthData more than 75,000 square feet of space.

"There were 10 of us there," Springthorpe said of the contingent that attended the banquet at the Grandover Resort in Greensboro. "Certainly the closer we got to the top, the better it got."

At the banquet, the list of companies was revealed, beginning in reverse order at No. 50, Motorsports Design Holdings Inc. of High Point.

The top growing company on the list was Atlantic Scrap and Processing LLC of Kernersville. Second on the list was last year's No. 1, S.V. International Corp. of Greensboro.

SouthData was behind No. 16, New Breed Inc. of Greensboro (No. 19 in 2004), and ahead of No. 18, Box-Board Products Inc. of Greensboro (No. 26 last year).

SouthData manufactured

more than 38 million documents and payment books in 2004 and is on pace to exceed that total by 30 percent this year.

The company mailed more payment books for the property management market than all of its competitors combined.

John S. Clark Company Inc. was founded in 1958. It works on general construction and related services in 24 states, according to its Web site. The company's home office is in Mount Airy and its satellite offices are located in Greensboro, Winston-Salem and Wilmington.

John S. Clark has been honored by the state with the highest builder-safety rating.

According to a Triad Business Journal article on the John S. Clark Web site, CEO Richard Vaughn said the company posted a 21 percent increase in revenues in 2004 and is on target to top \$300 million in sales this year.

In the article, Vaughn attributed much of the growth to targeting a larger variety of projects, especially retail and multi-family housing.



Submitted photo

Ken Smith with BDO Seidman, LLP, presents John Springthorpe III of SouthData Inc., an award honoring the Mount Airy firm as the 17th fastest-growing company in the Piedmont Triad region.