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Best Employers by the Bay

The San Francisco Business Times in partnership with its sister paper, Silicon Valley Business Journal, have issued their first ranking of Bay Area employers. The newspapers surveyed both management and staffers about key issues, including internal communication, work environment, compensation, benefits, promotions and recognition.

Top ranked were SF insurance brokers Marsh & McLennan (first in the over-500 employee category), the SF insurance firm of Woodruff & Sawyer (number one in the 101-to-500 category) and SF's Access Communications, a nonprofit broadband and entertainment provider, deemed best in the under-100 employee category.

What makes these companies special? Consider some of the benefits. At Marsh, workers receive tuition reimbursement, referral bonuses and domestic partner benefits. At Woodruff, employees enjoy time off on alternate Fridays and a \$3000 annual education benefit. At Access, the staff gets time off for community service, a \$40 monthly health subsidy, and options for telecommuting and flex time. The most creative benefit offered? Try Nvidia, the Santa Clara maker of graphics and communications processors. The company, which placed second in the over-500 employee category, offers a visiting on-site dentist.

Other top-ranked large companies include:

- Sybase Inc
- El Camino Hospital
- Bingham McCutchen
- SRI International
- Seton Medical Center
- Network Appliance
- KPMG
- Wells Fargo
- Clorox
- OPR Construction
- YMCA of SF

- Catholic Healthcare West
- Telecare Corp

Midsize winners include:

- Swinerton Inc
- Genecor International
- Equity Office
- Stryker Endoscopy
- ABD Insurance
- Commonwealth Central Credit Union
- WestEd
- Heffernan Group
- Organice Inc
- Symyx Technologies
- Tilia Inc
- Carroll, Burdick &
- McDonough
- Hanson, Bridgett,
- Marcus, Vlahos & Rudy
- Chronicle Books
- Marimba
- Ellie Mae
- Gardeners' Guild
- Consolidated Engineering Labs

Small companies named include:

- Kabira Technologies
- HR Options
- De Mattei Construction
- Borel Private Bank & Trust
- Coast Personnel
- Suhr Risk Services
- Foley & Lardner
- Woodberry Events
- Foundation Systems
- Frye Claims
- Degenkolb Engineers
- Engage PR
- Move Management Ctr
- The Alameda County Community Food Bank

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