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**O.C. man wins national business honors**

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Over the past 32 years, Manu Shah has built his company, **M S International Inc.** in Orange, into North America's largest distributor of natural stone.

Saturday night in Palm Springs his hard work was honored with the national **Ernst & Young** Entrepreneur of the Year in Distribution, Manufacturing and Security. He and 10 other business owners were selected for national honors out of 400 regional award winners.

The **Entrepreneur of the Year** program over the past 21 years has become renowned as one of the top recognitions for the builders of successful, growing companies in the United States and 50 other nations.

Other Orange County entrepreneurs who have won national honors in the past include William Lyon, **William Lyon Homes** in Newport Beach and Henry Nicholas, **Broadcom Corp.** in Irvine.

The other entrepreneurs honored Saturday night are:

- Issac Larian, **MGA Entertainment**, Los Angeles, overall national winner and retail/consumer products category. MGA makes Bratz dolls.
- Marc Benioff, **Salesforce.com Inc.**, San Francisco, technology category
- Harold "Max" Messmer, **Robert Half International Inc.**, Menlo Park, services category
- William W. Gay, **W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractor Inc.**, Jacksonville, Fla., real estate, hospitality and construction category
- Harold Hamm, **Continental Resources Inc.**, Enid Okla., energy, chemicals and mining category
- Ronald Kruszewski, **Stifel Financial Corp.**, St. Louis, MO., financial services category
- Pamela Morris, **CareSource Management Group**, Dayton, Ohio, health sciences category
- Michael and Steven Roberts, **Roberts Hotel Group**, St. Louis, MO, emerging entrepreneur category
- Michael Walrath, **Right Media**, New York, media entertainment and communications category.



Shah, born in a tiny Indian village, came to the United States in 1967 to attend Purdue University. He started MSI part-time in Fort Wayne, Ind., while working at **International Harvester** in order to import black granite from his brother's quarry in India.

He moved MSI to California in 1984. The company now has 450 employees worldwide, 250 of them in Orange. It imports granite, marble, slate, travertine and limestone from all over the world and sells to Home Depot, Lowes and other retailers.

Annual revenues have grown from \$4,500 the first year to an expected \$240 million this year.

Manu and wife Rika are co-chairmen of the company. Sons Raj and Rup now run the company.

When Shah won the local Entrepreneur of the Year award in June, he was quoted as saying, "This award is truly a reflection of the ingenuity, hard work and consistent innovation of the entire MSI team, which includes dedicated employees, our suppliers in over 33 countries and devoted customers across the world."

**Stumble it!**

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