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Manu Shah Named Young Entrepreneur of 2007



Manu Shah, chairman and chief executive officer of M S International, Inc., was named the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2007 national award winner in the Distribution, Manufacturing & Security Category. Now in its 21st year, the awards recognize leaders and visionaries who demonstrate innovation, financial success and personal commitment as they create and build world-class businesses.

Shah was recognized for turning a small business, started in his basement, into one of the largest distributors of natural stone in North America and the number one distributor of stone to consumers in the United States. Founded in 1975, M S International imports natural stone from more than 30 countries on five continents, including granite, slate, marble, travertine, sandstone, limestone and other natural stone products.

After emigrating from Bombay, India, Manu Shah and his wife, Rika, started M S International in their Ft. Wayne, Indiana home with a modest goal—to bring in some extra income to supplement Shah's earnings as a mechanical engineer. Shah had a brother in India who worked in the natural stone business and Shah saw the possibilities of importing stone for use in monuments. Being a meticulous planner, Shah kept redefining those business possibilities and positioned the company to expand. And expand they did. A key milestone came in 1981, when M S International won the contract to provide black granite for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C.

After the company was awarded the contract, Shah left his position as a project engineer for International Harvester and joined the family business full-time. Three years later he relocated the company to Anaheim, California, believing it would be the ideal location for distribution. Shah positioned the company to expand into commercial and residential markets, just as