

Top 20 Companies to Watch in 2008

■ By Susan Madden

Beginning with this issue, the Nova Scotia Business Journal begins its monthly coverage of top Nova Scotian companies. The main idea behind our "Top Companies" lists is to celebrate those businesses and leaders who work just under the radar to make big things happen in Nova Scotia. — *Jeff Nearing, Publisher*

techlink entertainment® Based in Sydney, Techlink Entertainment has been developing and manufacturing the latest technologies for the gaming industry for more than a decade, including video lottery and internet products.

What makes Techlink Entertainment a Top 20 Company to Watch? In November of this year, the Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation announced Techlink's Responsible Gaming Device (GAMEPLAN) to curb problem gambling. This RGD can be connected to virtually any gaming device and allows the user to exclude themselves from gaming for a 48 hour period.

Trimstyle Décor This is a nine person, Debert-based operation, specializing in tool and die making and the production of plastic injection mouldings. The company was founded in 2000, and its products are exported exclusively to the United States.

Why is Trimstyle Décor a Top 20 Company to Watch? One of Trimstyle Décor's most noteworthy products is the plastic pole line insulator. Throughout the United States, a transition is underway from the ceramic to the plastic variety of these insulators. The company is currently in talks with other businesses to further expand its customer base



Instrument Concepts This company is a three person operation, designing measurement instruments primarily for the offshore industry. The company was founded in 1998 in Houston, Texas, and moved its base of operations to Great Village in 1999.

Why is Instrument Concepts a Top 20 Company to Watch? Already serving powerhouse international clients including British Petroleum and Ferrell, Instrument Concepts is now focusing on growing its business within Nova Scotia. The company made headlines in 2005, when its acoustic listening device, dubbed "Big Ears," was key in saving the world's largest semi-submersible oil rig from sinking. Big Ears is now known and used by companies around the world.

