

World Pac Paper founder gets Small Business award

By Jeff McKinney

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Edgar Smith Jr., founder, chairman and CEO of World Pac Paper LLC, was honored last week as Ohio Small Business Person of the Year for 2010 by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

The SBA cited Smith's "lifetime commitment to excellence, hard work and service to his customers." Smith now is among 50 finalists competing for the SBA's National Small Business Person of the Year award, to be announced on Tuesday.

Separately, the SBA also named him Small Business Person of the Year for Region V, which includes Ohio, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan.

Smith's World Pac Paper is a national distributor of printing and packaging papers. Like other businesses hit hard by the recession, revenue for the Roselawn-based company was down last year



Provided

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to \$20 million, a drop from \$25.5 million in 2008.

Smith, however, expects revenue this year to reach \$27 million for the business he launched in 2004.

"By generating jobs and creating innovation, minority businesses contribute signif-

icantly to the national economy," Smith, 48, says. "We represent a fast-growing segment of small businesses in the United States."

Inc. magazine ranked World Pac Paper No. 155 on its top 500 fastest-growing businesses for 2009.