E50: Good to Great

Six interesting facts about the Enterprise 50 Awards on its 20th anniversary

36%

of E50 winners parallel Singapore's growth sectors

Hard industry forms the bulk of the E50 winners – over a third come from the manufacturing, real estate/construction and engineering services sectors. This perhaps reflects the tradition and history of local enterprises, many of which were originally set up to supply or service multinationals established here.

125

E50 firms listed on stock exchanges

These include the Singapore Mainboard, and the Stock Exchanges in Hong Kong and Taiwan. Over time, the E50 Awards have gained a reputation as a springboard for future listing.

Many large multinational corporations associate the E50 ranking with the US Fortune 500 listing of top businesses in the US. Our rankings may have one zero less, but it is a very significant form of recognition for Singapore companies.

Tommie Goh, Managing Director of JIT Electronics, a past E50 winner

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Number of countries with E50 company presence

E50 firms in representing the best of local enterprises are forward and outward-looking, open to change and willing to experiment. Many have consolidated their resources through strategic alliances, are regional leaders, and growing fast in the global arena.

Almost S&P 500

28

Average age of an E50 firm

This makes the E50 firms a good decade older than the average S&P500 company, which is now 18 years according to Innosight, a research firm. Technological change, global competition and pressure from startups are increasingly threatening some of the world's most iconic corporations. To fight fade, E50 firms – representing the best privately owned enterprises in Singapore – would have to embrace "creative destruction" before markets do it to them.

Inevitable Business Cycle

The peaks and troughs of the business cycle are as real to E50 companies as they are to the macro-economy. To reflect this, the annual themes chosen for the E50 Awards indicate the overall, wider business climate.
"Value creation" (2013)
"Restructuring" (2010-11)
"Staying resilient" (2009)

Source: KPMG