

SA tech firms up with the best

By MEREDITH BOOTH

SOUTH Australian technology companies have punched above their weight in Deloitte Asia Pacific Technology Fast 500 list.

All 20 SA finalists made the international list, with online retailer EzyDVD highest at 60 on revenue growth of 554 per cent in the past three years.

SA companies comprised one third of the Australian companies listed.

Communications companies AirNet and Clearsonics and electronics firm Parketronics made the top 200 private and public companies listed.

Topping the entire list was Australian company Bill Express, operator of a national payment network which allows people to pay bills over-the-counter at newsagencies and retailers.

Its revenue growth topped 56,303 per cent in the three years to June 30, 2004.

Taiwanese company Dotcom Technology, which helps businesses to trade online, grew by 7035 per cent to be second on the list while semiconductor maker Malaysia Microelectronics Solutions ranked third with 6000 per cent.

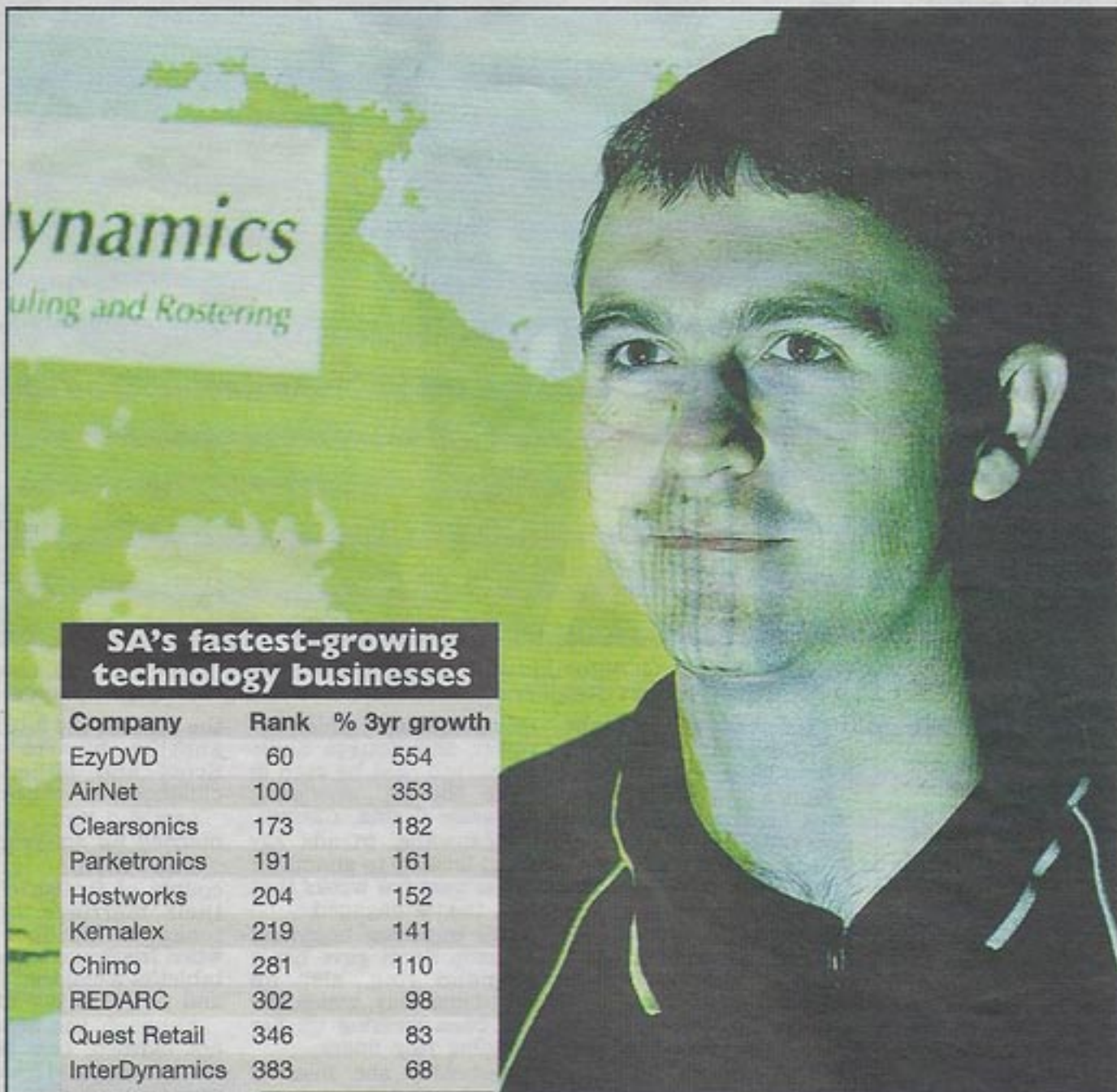
Companies from China (including Hong Kong), India, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Singapore and Thailand also featured in the Fast 500.

Some of the best performers were communications and software companies but semi-conductor, component and electronics companies had a resurgence, the report's authors said.

Deloitte Adelaide's corporate finance partner David Hill said a "marked improvement in the technology sector" coupled with "weathered entrepreneurs and experienced managers" had pushed SA firms into the limelight.

"Yet again it demonstrates that as a state we are hitting above our weight both on a national and international stage, even when compared with countries like China where growth rates have been staggering," Mr Hill said.

He expects 2005's leaders to be from emerging areas such as voice-over-internet protocol, intelligent transport systems, remote-frequency identification tags and wireless local-area networks.



SA's fastest-growing technology businesses

Company	Rank	% 3yr growth
EzyDVD	60	554
AirNet	100	353
Clearsonics	173	182
Parketronics	191	161
Hostworks	204	152
Kemalex	219	141
Chimo	281	110
REDARC	302	98
Quest Retail	346	83
InterDynamics	383	68

ON THE MAP: InterDynamics engineer Robert Farrell demonstrating the firm's Planimate software.

Taking on the multinationals

By MEREDITH BOOTH

RANKED 383rd in the Asia-Pacific survey, Adelaide-based software firm InterDynamics has grown through supplying its logistics software to miners and road, rail and sea carriers.

The 14-year-old software developer's revenue rose by 68 per cent in the past three years.

Managing director Bob Bridges said InterDynamics competed with multinational companies because of its niche expertise in

programs for scheduling, planning, analysis and rostering.

A newer product, developed with the University of South Australia's Centre for Sleep Research, focuses on reducing the financial risk associated with worker fatigue and has been bought by insurance firm Zurich.

InterDynamics, which has 12 staff across its Adelaide and Brisbane offices, sells its software in Australia and overseas and has a large shipping customer in

Sweden. Mr Bridges said the company had logged "steady growth" since starting in the early 1990s.

"The area that we're involved in is definitely niche," he said, adding that its Planimate software was more visual than its rival products.

InterDynamics was also responsible for developing and implementing the delivery-vehicle scheduling system for 2000's Sydney Olympic Games.