

FORBES MAGAZINE ARTICLE

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13 AUS firms named in Forbes 'best under a billion' list

Thirteen Australian companies have been named as part of Forbes Magazine's "best under a billion" list of top-performing companies worth under \$US1 billion.

Australia retained its fifth place ranking with 13 firms being named in the list, down from 18 the year before.

Among the companies named by Forbes were Queensland based coal miner New Hope, which turned over \$US446 million (\$A490.16 million) in sales over the past three years.

Education services provider Navitas also made the list, touching \$US469 million (\$A515.44 million) in sales.

Online travel booking service Wotif.com also made the list.

China made the biggest contribution to the list with 71 companies named, down from 78 the year before.

The annual Best Under a Billion list picks the top-performing 200 firms from almost 13,000 public listed Asia-Pacific companies with actively traded shares and sales between \$US5 million (\$A5.5 million) and \$US1 billion (\$A1.1 billion).

Selection of the final 200 was based on earnings growth, sales growth, and shareholders return on equity in the past 12 months and over three years.

Australian companies named in Forbes Magazine's annual "best under a billion" list:

1. Austin Engineering / manufactures, repairs and supplies mining equipment
2. CSG / information technology, office supplies and services
3. Iress Market Technology / information and data products for financial management
4. Lycopodium / engineering and project management services
5. McMillan Shakespeare / remuneration services to public and private organizations
6. Mitchell Communication Group / digital and communications strategy, media planning
7. Mortgage Choice / mortgage-brokering services
8. Navitas / educational services
9. New Hope / coal mining and support activities
10. Premier Investments / invests in listed securities and money market deposits
11. Reckon / develops personal financial and accounting software
12. Sirtex Medical / researches, develops treatments for liver cancer
13. Wotif.com Holdings / online travel-booking service