

CGI among 5 honorees at awards dinner

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A small Carson City company will take the big stage tonight as one of five "Business of the Year" recipients at the annual Governor's Industry Appreciation Awards dinner in Reno.

CGI Inc., a maker of precision gear parts for robotics applications, has been a staple on the capital city's thriving manufacturing front for 17 years.

Not only has CGI enjoyed growth -- a

15 percent jump in sales over two years and an anticipated 35 percent spurt over the next four -- but CEO Mike Madison calls on his 68 employees to give back to the Carson City community as well.

For those reasons, CGI will be honored tonight alongside AT&T Nevada, the High Desert Special Operations Center in Hawthorne, Intuit Inc. and Microsoft Licensing GP.

CGI's origins date to 1967 in Southern California as California Gear & Instruments. The name was shortened to the initials when the original owner moved to Carson City in 1990.

The company may be small, Madison said, but it is big in its field -- one of the top five in the nation competing to supply parts for the robotics industry.

Think surgical robots, assembly line robots and such machinery that requires gears to operate, and that's where CGI comes in.

"It's very high-precision. Anything that hooks up to a motor to move robots," Madison said.

His products are found in hospital operating rooms and in silicon chip manufacturing sites. They're even under water, helping operate the fountains in front of the ultra-luxurious Bellagio resort in Las Vegas.

"For a company that's been in the area since 1990, they have committed to expansion with a new plant and are good corporate citizens," said Judi Bishop, director of regional development for the Northern Nevada Development Authority, co-host of the dinner with the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada.

Madison said CGI contributes to numerous charities and nonprofits. It donated a \$65,000 machine to Western Nevada College's machine tool program.

Bishop applauded CGI for allowing its employees to volunteer in areas of the community that interest them.

Madison said two-thirds of his staff work about 2,000 hours a year on a variety of causes.



CGI Inc. employee Ken Walker programs a vertical mill for production at the plant in Carson City on Wednesday. (PROVIDED TO THE RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL)