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## **SMARTBOX Named Top Franchise by *Entrepreneur Magazine*** *Portable Storage, Moving Firm Also Named Top New Franchise*

**RICHMOND, Va., December 31, 2008** – SMARTBOX, one of the fastest-growing portable storage and moving companies, is pleased to announce that, for the second year in a row, it has been named to *Entrepreneur* magazine's Franchise 500<sup>®</sup> – an annual ranking of the top 500 franchises in the world that dates to 1980. SMARTBOX appears on the 2009 list, checking in at No. 446, up 22 spots from last year. In addition, SMARTBOX landed at No. 49 on *Entrepreneur's* list of Top New Franchises.

“The Franchise 500 is widely regarded as the most respected and comprehensive ranking for franchises,” said SMARTBOX President Michael Lowe. “We are honored and thrilled to be included in this list for the second year in a row, especially being that we are such a young company.”

SMARTBOX, founded in 2003, has expanded to 35 markets including: Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Jacksonville, Fla., Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New Orleans, Raleigh, N.C., San Antonio and West Palm Beach, Fla., since the beginning of 2006.

### **About SMARTBOX**

*SMARTBOX is a leader in the portable self-storage industry, offering individuals and businesses affordable and convenient storage and local and long-distance moving solutions. Based in Richmond, Va., SMARTBOX services more than 60 million people in Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Charlotte, N.C., Chicago, Denver, Fredericksburg, Va., Jacksonville, Fla., Los Angeles, Minneapolis/St. Paul, New Orleans, Norfolk/Virginia Beach, Va., Raleigh, N.C., Richmond, Va., San Antonio and West Palm Beach, Fla. For a complete list of locations, please visit [www.smartboxusa.com](http://www.smartboxusa.com).*

### **About the Franchise 500<sup>®</sup>**

*All companies, regardless of size, are judged by the same criteria: objective, quantifiable measures of a franchise operation. The most important factors include financial strength and stability, growth rate and size of the system. We also consider the number of years in business and length of time franchising, startup costs, litigation, percentage of terminations and whether the company provides financing. Financial data is audited by an independent CPA. We do not measure subjective elements such as franchisee satisfaction or management style, since these are judgments only you can make based on your own needs and experiences. The objective factors are plugged into our exclusive Franchise 500<sup>®</sup> formula, with each eligible company receiving a cumulative score. The 500 franchises with the highest cumulative scores become the Franchise 500<sup>®</sup>.*