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Y2k Bug Most Likely to Bite Small Business

Washington (May 27, 1999) -- As many as 65 percent of American businesses will be unprepared to handle the Year 2000 Millennium Bug when it strikes next year, with small businesses particularly vulnerable, reports the Institute of Management Consultants.

An IMC survey of 266 businesses found that 40 percent had no plan to perform comprehensive Y2k testing and that all of those lacking such plans were companies of under 500 employees. The IMC is a Washington-based association that provides training and information services to management consultants nationwide.

"It's not at all surprising that small business are not prepared for Y2k; the nature of the beast is that they are firefighters and not planners," said Lynn Hoopingarner, a West Hollywood, Calif., consultant who was senior editor of the survey report, titled "Y2 Que Sera Sera."

The findings contradict a report from Sage Software that pronounced that small businesses are on top of the Y2k issue. It conducted a survey of 200 small business IT executives that found that 55 percent have already fixed the problem and 38 percent are working on a fix.

-- John M. Covaleski