

**Zacks Issues Buy Recommendations on the Following 6 Stocks.**

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EMC, Entegris, Energizer Holdings, ADTRAN, Merrill Lynch, and Linear Tech.

CHICAGO-(BUSINESS WIRE)-June 25, 2003-Zacks.com releases another list of stocks that are currently members of the coveted Zacks no.1 Ranked list which has produced an average annual return of +33.6% since 1988 and has gained +13.3% annually since 2000 as the markets have been tumbling down. Among the no.1 ranked stocks today we highlight the following companies: EMC Corporation (NYSE:EMC), Entegris, Inc. (NASDAQ:ENTG) and Energizer Holdings, Inc. (NYSE:ENR). Further they announced no.2 Rankings (Buy) on three other widely held stocks: ADTRAN, Inc. (NASDAQ:ADTN), Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. (NYSE:MER), and Linear Technology Corporation (NASDAQ:LLTC). To see the full Zacks no.1 Ranked list or the rank for any other stock then visit: <http://www.zacksrank1bw.zacks.com>

Here is a synopsis of why these stocks have a Zacks Rank of 1 (Strong Buy). Note that a no.1 Strong Buy rating is applied to 5% of all the stocks we rank:

EMC Corporation (NYSE:EMC) and its subsidiaries design, manufacture, market and support a wide range of hardware and software products and provide services for the storage, management, protection and sharing of electronic information. Earlier this month, EMC was again named the world's top provider of external controller-based storage and networked information storage in 2002, according to Gartner Dataquest. In its first quarter of 2003 report from mid-April, EMC reported net income of 2 cents per diluted share, which not only reversed a year-ago loss, but also marked a +100% surprise over the consensus. Total consolidated revenue in the quarter improved by +6% year-over year to \$1.38 billion. Earnings estimates for this year and next have improved by about 3 cents and 1-cent respectively over the past three months. Furthermore, the company has an excellent record of meeting or exceeding Wall Street's earnings estimates for the past several quarters. Analysts' expectations for next year's earnings are for a +70% improvement over this year. With its industry leading presence, EMC appears to be moving in the right direction and may be a good place to store profits in your portfolio.

Entegris, Inc. (NASDAQ:ENTG) is a leading provider of materials management solutions to the microelectronics industry including, in particular, the semiconductor manufacturing and disk manufacturing markets. The company reported third quarter 2003 net income of 5 cents per diluted share, which handily surpassed Wall Street's expectations by about +150%. Furthermore, revenues of \$70 million surpassed both sequential and year-over-year totals. Analysts have raised the company's earnings estimates for this year by about 2 cents, or +50%, over the past seven trading days. While the current business environment limits visibility in the near-term, the company remains optimistic for the future.

Energizer Holdings, Inc. (NYSE:ENR) is the world's largest manufacturer of primary batteries and flashlights and a global leader in the dynamic business of providing portable power. Earnings estimates for this year and next are approximately +4% and +12% above levels from three months ago, as Energizer has an excellent track record of meeting or exceeding Wall Street's expectations over the past several quarters. In its second quarter report from mid-April, Energizer reported net earnings of 37 cents per diluted share, which was more than enough to surpass the year-ago result and the consensus by more than +12%. Furthermore, sales increased by +7% to \$362.6 million. With solid results like these and a leading presence in its industry, an investment in this company may just help to recharge your portfolio.

Here is a synopsis of why these stocks have a Zacks Rank of 2 (Buy). Note that a no.2 Buy rating is applied to 15% of all the stocks we rank:

ADTRAN, Inc. (NASDAQ:ADTN) designs, develops, manufactures, markets and services a broad range of high-speed digital transmission products utilized by telephone companies and corporate end-users to implement advanced digital data services over existing telephone networks. Along with companies like Avaya (NYSE:AV), Amdocs (NYSE:DOX), and Sonus Networks (NASDAQ:SONS), Adtran is one of a handful of telecommunications-related companies that analysts seem to like. Earnings estimates for the company have risen by about +5% for this year over the past three months, while next year's have advanced by approximately +8%. In its first quarter 2003 results from mid-April, the company reported earnings per share, assuming dilution, of 27 cents, which blew the doors off the year-ago result at 11 cents while also coming in more than +17% better than the consensus. Furthermore, sales improved to \$86.2 million from \$83.3 million, thanks to new product sales and market share expansion of existing products. Even in a difficult environment, Adtran has amassed a good record of meeting or exceeding Wall Street's quarterly earnings estimates. Investors looking for a stronger link to profits may want to dial up Adtran.

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. (NYSE:MER) provides investment, financing, advisory, insurance, and related products and services on a global basis to individual investors, small businesses, corporations, governments, and financial institutions. Analysts seem to be paying more attention to Merrill's industry these days, as the market's recent rallies have brought some investors back to the table. Other companies related to Merrill's businesses that have caught the attention of analysts include E*Trade (NYSE:ET), Janus Capital Group (NYSE:JNS), and T. Rowe Price (NASDAQ:TROW). In mid-April, Merrill reported first quarter 2003 earnings of 72 cents per diluted share, which was about +22% better than the consensus. The company said such results demonstrate Merrill's continued progress in diversifying revenues and improving efficiency. Analysts have boosted the company's earnings estimates for this year by approximately +5% over the past three months. If investors continue to flock toward the market, then Merrill should be in an even better condition moving forward. Investors looking to corral better returns should consider jumping on this bull's back.

Linear Technology Corporation (NASDAQ:LLTC) designs and manufactures linear integrated circuits. Linear's industry remains challenged and the company's earnings estimates have only slightly risen over the past several months. However, the company has an excellent track record of meeting or exceeding Wall Street's quarterly earnings estimates, which is a good sign in a struggling industry. Furthermore, analysts expect next year's results to be about +23% better than this year's. The company will report its fourth quarter 2003 results on July 23. Its third quarter 2003 results saw the company report net income of 19 cents per diluted share on net sales of \$153.7 million, both of which improved on its year-over-year totals with the earnings estimate beating the consensus by a penny. The company said it is able to achieve good financial results in a difficult environment because it focuses its efforts on unique, high-performance analog intensive, market opportunities often in the newest generation end user products. If its fourth quarter results can show a similar or better performance, then its earnings estimates should have plenty of running room to move higher. Investors searching for a straight line to profit may want to try a position in Linear Technology.

To truly take advantage of the Zacks Rank, you need to first understand how it works. That's why we created the free special report; "Zacks Rank Guide: Harnessing the Power of Earnings Estimate Revisions." Download your free copy now to prosper in the years to come. <http://freezrguideprbw1.zacks.com>

About the Zacks Rank

For over 15 years the Zacks Rank has proven that "Earnings estimate revisions are the most powerful force impacting stock prices." Since 1988 the no.1 Ranked stocks have generated an average annual return of +33.6% compared to the (a)S&P 500 return of only +11.3%. Plus this exclusive stock list has generated average gains of +13.3% during the last 3 years; a substantial return compared to the large losses suffered by most investors during that time frame. Also note that the Zacks Rank system has just as many Strong Sell recommendations (Rank no.5) as Strong Buy recommendations (Rank no.1). And since 1988 the S&P 500 has outperformed the Zacks no.5 Ranked stocks by 166.7% annually (11.3% vs. 4.2% respectively). This is a healthy change from traditional Wall Street Brokerage firms who rarely give stocks Sell ratings even as the share price and earnings forecast tumble. Thus, the Zacks Rank system can truly be used to effectively manage the trading in your portfolio.

For continuous coverage of Zacks no.1 Ranked stocks, then get your free subscription to "Profit from the Pros" e-mail newsletter where we highlight no.1 Ranked stocks poised to outperform the market. <http://www.zacksrank2bw.zacks.com/>

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