



## Zacks Issues Buy Recommendations on the Following 4 Stocks.

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ADTRAN, Centex, Becton, Dickinson and Co. and Juniper Networks.

CHICAGO-(BUSINESS WIRE)-Feb. 6, 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 34% since inception in 1980 and is up +11.9% through July 1, 2002. Among the no.1 ranked stocks today we highlight the following companies: ADTRAN, Inc. (NASDAQ:ADTN) and Centex Corporation (NYSE:CTX). Further they announced no.2 Rankings (Buy) on two other widely held stocks: Becton, Dickinson and Company (NYSE:BDX) and Juniper Networks, Inc. (NASDAQ:JNPR). 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:

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. The company reported that fourth quarter earnings more than tripled to 32 cents per share, compared to 10 cents last year. The result also beat Wall Street's expectations. However, sales slipped slightly to \$88.4 million from \$89.1 million. Nevertheless, the ADTN said that it experienced sequential increases in earnings for each quarter of 2002, as well as sequential increases in revenue and gross profit for the most recent three quarters. Estimates for this year and next have improved by about 17 cents and 27 cents respectively over the past month. The company has also increased its operating efficiencies, enhanced its market share and reduced its product costs. ADTN has been able to do all this even though its markets have been stuck in a rut. The company seems to be moving in the right direction and may be able to add some depth to your investment universe.

Centex Corporation (NYSE:CTX) is one of the nation's largest home builders, non-bank-affiliated retail mortgage lenders and general building contractors. The housing industry is alive and well within CTX, as the company reported third quarter earnings of \$2.50 on revenues of \$2.3 billion. That earnings result was +62% better than last year's result of \$1.54 and significantly surpassed Wall Street's expectations, while the revenue result was +22% better than last year. Both of those results were records for the company. In addition, year-over-year home closings improved by +17%. The past month has seen estimates for CTX improve by about 38 cents for this year and approximately 12 cents for next. CTX has displayed an ability to take advantage of a beneficial space, which might be foreshadowing further successes in the future. Investors that want to build a better portfolio may want to break ground with a position in CTX.

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:

Becton, Dickinson and Company (NYSE:BDX) is engaged principally in the manufacture and sale of a broad line of supplies, devices and systems used by health care professionals, medical research institutions and the general public. In its fiscal first quarter report, BDX reported diluted earnings per share of 43 cents, which improved upon the year-ago result of 37 cents and topped Wall Street's expectations. Revenues improved by +11% to \$1.052 billion. The company saw good revenue growth in its BD Medical Systems and BD Clinical Laboratory Solutions segments. Over the past month, estimates for BDX have improved slightly, but there could be more room for

growth. BDX has a solid record of matching, and in the most recent quarter's case, beating Wall Street's expectations, which bodes well for the company moving forward. BDX is excited over the launch of its new blood glucose monitoring products, which the company says is among the most significant launches in its history. An investment in BDX may help to cure the ills of your investment universe.

Juniper Networks, Inc. (NASDAQ:JNPR) is a provider of Internet infrastructure solutions that enable Internet service providers and other telecommunications service providers to meet the demands resulting from the rapid growth of the Internet. Although still suffering in a challenging environment, JNPR was able to put together a solid fourth quarter with a penny profit. That result surpassed Wall Street's expectations, which was calling for a penny loss. Furthermore, net revenue in the quarter rose slightly to \$155.3 million from \$151 million last year. These results are quite encouraging given the tough market conditions at the moment. Analysts appear to agree and have raised estimates for this year by about 4 cents in the past month by enhancing next year's expectation by approximately 1-cent. JNPR said its entering 2003 with improved confidence. Investors may want to think about adding some structure to their portfolios with a piece of JNPR.

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 20 years the Zacks Rank has proven that "Earnings estimate revisions are the most powerful force impacting stock prices." Since inception in 1980 no.1 Ranked stocks have generated an average annual return of +34.0% compared to the (a)S&P 500 return of only +14.7%. Plus this exclusive stock list has gained +11.9% through 7/1/02, +18.7 in 2001 and +16.2% in 2000; 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 1980 the no.5 Ranked Strong Sells have under performed the S&P 500 by 89.8% annually. This is a healthy change from traditional Wall Street Brokerage firms who only give stocks Sell ratings less than 1% of the time. 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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(a) The S&P 500 Index ("S&P 500") is a well-known, unmanaged index of the prices of 500 large-company common stocks selected by Standard & Poor's. The S&P 500 includes the reinvestment of all dividends, no transaction costs, and represents the gross returns before management fees.

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