

Zacks Buy List Highlights: ADTRAN, Abercrombie & Fitch, Rockwell Collins, and OMI

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CHICAGO - (BUSINESS WIRE) - June 29, 2005 - Zacks.com releases another list of stocks that are currently members of the coveted Zacks #1 Rank (Strong Buy) List. The #1 Rank stocks highlighted today are ADTRAN, Inc. (NASDAQ:ADTN) and Abercrombie & Fitch Company (NYSE:ANF). Further, Zacks announced #2 Rankings (Buy) on two other widely held stocks: Rockwell Collins, Inc. (NYSE:COL) and OMI Corporation (NYSE:OMM). To see the full Zacks #1 Rank (Strong Buy) List, or the rank for any other stock, visit: http://at.zacks.com/?id=88

Stocks ranked #1 (Strong Buy) by Zacks have produced an average annual return of +32.8% since inception in 1988. During the 2000-2002 bear market, Zacks #1 Rank stocks gained 43.8% while the S&P 500 tumbled 37.6%.

Here is a synopsis of why ADTN and ANF have a Zacks Rank of 1. Note that a #1 Strong Buy rating is applied to only 5% of all the stocks Zacks ranks:

ADTRAN, Inc. (NASDAQ:ADTN) recently raised its earnings guidance for the second quarter. Analysts followed suit and revised full-year 2005 earnings estimates upward by four cents, or about 4%, from one month ago. The company stated that quarter-to-date bookings have been stronger than anticipated in both traditional and new product areas. ADTN will announce second-quarter financial results on July 19, 2005. In mid-April, the company reported first-quarter earnings of 20 cents per share, exceeding the consensus estimate by almost 18%.

Abercrombie & Fitch Company (NYSE:ANF) recently released sales figures for the month of May. Net sales improved 43%, on year-over-year basis, to \$159 million. Comparable store sales increased 29% year-over-year. Earnings estimates for the year ending January 2006 are above one month ago levels by 10 cents or approximately 3%. In mid-May, the company posted fiscal first-quarter earnings of 45 cents per share, surpassing the consensus estimate by about 7% and outpacing last year's result.

Here is a synopsis of why COL and OMM have a Zacks Rank of 2 (Buy). Note that a #2 Buy rating is applied to 15% of all the stocks ranked by Zacks:

Rockwell Collins, Inc. (NYSE:COL) reported strong across-the-board financial results for its fiscal second quarter, in late April. The company attributed its performance to its long-standing commitment to significant investment in new product development, keeping a sharp focus on the requirements of its customers, and continuous improvement in operational performance. Earnings per share of 52 cents topped the consensus by 2% and improved year-over-year by 33%, while sales jumped 15% to \$829 million. Rockwell Collins also raised its full year revenue and earnings expectations. The new guidance calls for sales of \$3.35-\$3.4 billion and earnings per share of \$2.05-\$2.15.

OMI Corporation (NYSE:OMM) said that solid first quarter results reflect an excellent operating environment and strong performance by its ships and personnel. The company posted earnings per share that easily exceeded the year-earlier total, while also topping the consensus by more than 10%. Meanwhile, revenue improved 34% to \$171.4 million. OMI said the fundamentals of the product tanker market have continued to improve and oil majors have moved into the time charter market in a substantial manner. Over the past three months, earnings estimates for the December 2005 year moved higher 35 cents, or approximately 14%. The company will report its second quarter results late next month.

Truly taking advantage of the Zacks Rank requires the understanding of how it works. The free special report, "Zacks Rank Guide: Harnessing the Power of Earnings Estimate Revisions," provides an insightful background about this wealth-building tool. Download your free copy of the report now to prosper in the years to come by visiting http://at.zacks.com/?id=93.

About the Zacks Rank

For over 16 years, the Zacks Rank has proven that "Earnings estimate revisions are the most powerful force impacting stock prices." Since inception in 1988, #1 Rank stocks have generated an average annual return of +32.8%. During the 2000-2002 bear market, Zacks #1 Rank stocks gained 43.8%, while the S&P 500 tumbled 37.6%. Also note that the Zacks Rank system has just as many Strong Sell recommendations (Rank #5) as Strong Buy recommendations (Rank #1). Since 1988, Zacks Rank #5 stocks have underperformed the S&P 500 by 155.5% annually (+4.65% vs. +11.88%). Thus, the Zacks Rank system allows investors to truly manage portfolio trading effectively.

Zacks "Profit from the Pros" e-mail newsletter offers continuous coverage of Zacks #1 Rank stocks and highlights those stocks poised to outperform the market. Subscribe to this free newsletter today by visiting http://at.zacks.com/?id=90.

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