



Zacks Issues Buy Recommendations on the Following 6 Stocks.

1,741 words
4 April 2003
Business Wire
BWR
English
(c) 2003 Business Wire

ADTRAN, University of Phoenix Online, Willis Group, Avon, Estee Lauder, and Int'l Rectifier.

CHICAGO-(BUSINESS WIRE)-April 4, 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: ADTRAN, Inc. (NASDAQ:ADTN), University of Phoenix Online (NASDAQ:UOPX) and Willis Group Holdings (NYSE:WSH). Further they announced no.2 Rankings (Buy) on two other widely held stocks: Avon Products, Inc. (NYSE:AVP), The Estee Lauder Companies Inc. (NYSE:EL) and International Rectifier Corporation (NYSE:IRF). 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 recently addressed a void in the videoconferencing market by announcing the addition of a video switch to the ATLAS(TM) family of Integrated Access Devices, which will let customers share bandwidth between multiple videoconferencing systems or between videoconferencing and other WAN applications. Such a product will result in cost savings through a reduction of dedicated. In addition to products like these, ADTN has been beating rising earnings estimates over the past four quarters. Recent revisions have added some depth to estimates for this year and next in the past seven trading days, but analysts have boosted their expectations significantly from three months back. This bodes well for shareholders moving forward, and could connective investors to solid returns.

University of Phoenix Online (NASDAQ:UOPX) is a provider of higher education programs for working adults. Education has become big business, as evidenced by the strong enrollment performance for UOPX in the fiscal second quarter. The company reported net income for the came in at 19 cents per diluted share, which surpassed what a consensus of analysts were expecting and marked a 9 cent improvement over last year. Total revenues advanced by +62.1% to \$117 million. For the quarter ending May 31, 2003, UOPX sees diluted earnings per share of 25 cents with revenue between \$144 million and \$145 million. Its earnings estimates for this year and next have shown improvement in recent months, with more to follow if the company can continue its excellent record of beating Wall Street's earnings expectations. With a piece of UOPX, your portfolio may be able to rise from the ashes to post solid gains.

Willis Group Holdings (NYSE:WSH) is a global insurance broker providing specialized risk management, advisory, and other services to a broad range of corporate and institutional clients, with particular expertise in the construction, aerospace, marine and energy industries. In the company's fourth quarter report from early February, WSH reported operating cash earnings of 49 cents per diluted share, which easily surpassed the year-ago result of 30 cents. WSH has now been able to put together 12 straight quarters of record operating results, which bodes very well for shareholders. In addition, total reported revenues advanced by +25% to \$483 million. On top of such a performance, WSH has also got an excellent record of meeting or exceeding all Street's earnings expectations for several quarters now, which is an impressive feat in any sort of market environment.

With a very steady record of success, WSH seems to be moving in the right direction and could add some insurance to 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:

Avon Products, Inc. (NYSE:AVP) is one of the world's leading manufacturers and marketers of beauty and related products, which include cosmetics, fragrance and toiletries; beauty plus which consists of jewelry and accessories and apparel; and non-core which consists of gift and decorative and home entertainment products. AVP recently pleased analysts when it announced that earnings per share in the first quarter of 2003 will surpass its previous guidance. The company now sees 41 cents per share, or a penny better than its February guidance and the year-ago quarter's results. Furthermore, AVP said it is on track to record its fourth straight year of double-digit growth in local currency sales and earnings before unusual items. It said first quarter sales should advance by +11% to +12% in local currency terms, or +6% to +7% in dollars. Many of the company's more recent earnings estimate revisions have been to the upside. It looks like AVP may be able to makeover your investment universe.

The Estee Lauder Companies Inc. (NYSE:EL) is one of the world's leading manufacturers and marketers of quality skin care, makeup, fragrance and hair care products. People want to look their best no matter how the market is acting, and EL is there to make sure they do. Over the past three quarters, the company's earnings estimates have been moving higher and EL was able to beat them each time. For the company's fiscal second quarter, EL reported diluted earnings per common share of 44 cents, which was enough to surpass what a consensus of analysts were expecting while improving by +26% from last year. In addition, net sales in the quarter advanced by +9% to \$1.41 billion. Earnings estimates for this year and next have been largely steady over the past two months but have shown improvement from three months back. Furthermore, EL has enjoyed some recent revisions to the upside. EL appears to be on the right course and could be an attractive investment.

International Rectifier Corporation (NYSE:IRF) is a technology pioneer and a leading designer and manufacturer of power semiconductors that refine electricity from wall outlets or batteries into a more usable form. The company recently introduced the IRF7821 and IRF7832 synchronous buck converter chip set, which is designed to increase battery life in notebook computers. IRF may not be operating in one of the more energetic spaces in the marketplace, but innovative products like this have helped analysts to add some depth to its earnings estimates over the past several months. In the company's most recent quarterly report, IRF posted revenues that increased by +22% from last year, helped by +38% growth in proprietary products. Orders advanced by +33% from last year and by +7% sequentially. Given its ability to perform well under difficult circumstances, IRF may be able to power up your investments.

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/>

The Zacks Rank, and all of its recommendations, is created by Zacks & Co., member NASD. Zacks.com displays the Zacks Rank with permission from Zacks & Co. on its web site for individual investors.

About Zacks

Zacks.com is a property of Zacks Investment Research, Inc., which was formed in 1981 to compile, analyze, and distribute investment research to both institutional and individual investors. The guiding principle behind our work is the belief that investment experts, such as brokerage analysts and investment newsletter writers, have superior knowledge about how to invest successfully. Our goal is to unlock their profitable insights for our customers. And there is no better way to enjoy this investment success, than with a FREE subscription to "Profit from the Pros" weekly e-mail newsletter. For your free newsletter, visit <http://www.freeprofit1bw.zacks.com>

Zacks Investment Research is under common control with affiliated entities (including a broker-dealer and an investment adviser), which may engage in transactions involving the foregoing securities for the clients of such affiliates.

(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.

Disclaimer: Past performance does not guarantee future results. Investors should always research companies and securities before making any investments. Nothing herein should be construed as an offer or solicitation to buy or sell any security.

CONTACT: Zacks.com Terry Batey, 312/630-9880 ext. 307 feedback@zacks.com www.Zacks.com.

Document bwr0000020030404dz4400461

Search Summary

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Text | |
| Date | All Dates |
| Source | GlobeNewswire (U.S.) Or PR Newswire (U.S.) Or Business Wire (U.S.) Not Newswires |
| Author | All Authors |
| Company | Adtran Inc |
| Subject | All Subjects |
| Industry | All Industries |
| Region | United States |
| Language | English |
| Results Found | 809 |
| Timestamp | 18 July 2018 10:10 |