

## H&R Block Financial Advisors Launches Top Picks for 2006; Firm's Early Release of Equity Investment Ideas Contains Interesting Picks

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KANSAS CITY, Mo.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Nov. 29, 2005--Getting ahead of the industry, H&R Block Financial Advisors (NYSE:HRB) has published its list of equities believed to offer the most attractive total return potential for 2006. An interesting mix of well-known names and lesser-known companies comprise the list. An example of the picks are International Speedway Corp. because of the impressive growth of motor sports (now the second largest audience behind the NFL) and Neurocrine Biosciences Inc. due to its emerging profitability and interesting product pipeline.

"Our list of 19 equities was compiled by our independent internal team of sector analysts," said Lyle Schonberger, director of the firm's Investment Management Department. "Based on our proprietary research and market outlook for the coming year, we believe these companies are well-positioned to outperform in 2006." According to Schonberger, the stock picks are based upon rigorous analysis around the fundamental factors of valuation, competitive position and market conditions.

These picks were made within the context of a variety of comprehensive economic factors. "Our outlook for 2006 is a reserved one," says Marc Zabicki, CFA, senior market strategist for H&R Block Financial Advisors. "There may be some form of bounce once the Fed is through with its monetary tightening phase, but that's not likely to happen in the early part of next year."

According to Zabicki, even though market valuations may look appealing, certain factors are impacting returns. "In our view, we believe monetary policy and inflation fears could keep the S&P 500 from reaching double digit returns in 2006. Once past these issues, we see few major positive catalysts that could push equities discernibly higher." Zabicki added, "We are, however, anticipating a favorable economic foundation and stable, albeit slower, corporate earnings growth."

Representing nearly every economic sector, there are other compelling equities on the list. For example, Stryker Corp., a maker of orthopedic and other medical devices, is taking advantage of long-term demographic trends that favor our aging population. Another pick of note is FPL Group Inc., a leader in harnessing wind and solar power -- alternatives to fossil fuel sources.

"The picks, and the list as a whole, are designed with our larger view of the market in mind," Zabicki said. These picks are not strangers or newcomers to the firm's research team. All are selected from separate industry focus lists that analysts at the firm maintain on an ongoing basis.

The table below lists 19 stocks that represent the top picks for 2006. Not listed in any order, they are grouped according to their sector.

Company	Ticker	Exchange	Sector
Comcast Corp.	CMCSA	NASDAQ	Consumer Disc.
International Speedway Corp.	ISCA	NASDAQ	Consumer Disc.
CVS Corp.	CVS	NYSE	Consumer Staples
Pepsi Bottling Group Inc.	PBG	NYSE	Consumer Staples
United Natural Foods Inc.	UNFI	NASDAQ	Consumer Staples
Global Santa Fe Corp.	GSF	NYSE	Energy
Schlumberger Ltd.	SLB	NYSE	Energy
Capital One Financial Corp.	COF	NYSE	Financials
Wachovia Corp.	WB	NYSE	Financials
Neurocrine Biosciences Inc.	NBIX	NASDAQ	Health Care
Stryker Corp.	SYK	NYSE	Health Care
Teva Pharmaceutical Ind.	TEVA	NASDAQ	Health Care
3M Company	MMM	NYSE	Industrials
URS Corp.	URS	NYSE	Industrials
Dell Inc.	DELL	NASDAQ	Technology
Intel Corp.	INTC	NASDAQ	Technology
Micron Technology	MU	NYSE	Technology
Verizon Communications	VZ	NYSE	Telecommunications
FPL Group Inc.	FPL	NYSE	Utilities

The timing of the list coming out in November is important for clients. "Our desire is to provide our advisors with a diversified list of equities early so they can work with their clients to begin strategies for the new year," Schonberger said. "We want to help our clients be ahead of the game, not a follower."

Disclosure: Unless otherwise indicated, comments in this document should not be construed as an investment opinion or recommendation of the securities mentioned.

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