

Media Contact:

Mary Carrick, Communications Specialist
C&A Industries, Inc.
Phone: 402.891.0009
Fax: 402.891.9461
Email: mcarrick@ca-industries.com



C&A Industries Named to Inc. 500 Fourth Consecutive Year - Ranks #10 Annual Revenue, #257 Annual Growth

Holds Highest Position of Omaha-based Companies Four-Year Recognition Considered Extraordinary

Omaha, NE, (October 28, 2004) – *Inc.* Magazine, the premier publication for small and medium-sized businesses, has released its 23rd annual *Inc. 500* ranking of the fastest-growing private companies in the country. Omaha based **C&A Industries, Inc.**, a national leader in Human Capital Management, has been named to the *Inc. 500* for the unprecedented fourth consecutive year, ranked #10 nationally in Annual Revenue at \$186.1 million, far surpassing the top growth leaders. The company was ranked #257 in Annual Sales Growth over the past five years with an Average Annual Sales Growth of 142.7%. C&A Industries is the parent company of six specialized firms, including **Aureus Medical Group, Aureus Finance & Accounting, Aureus Executive, Aureus Systems, AurStaff, and Celebrity Staffing.** The *Inc. 500* Special Issue appeared on newsstands October 26 and will be on display until December 21, 2004.

The companies that made this list have thrived despite continued stagnation in the economy. **C&A Industries** attributes the majority of its growth to their specialization in various vertical markets. The company's medical division is a major player in the healthcare industry, placing allied health and nursing professionals in the top hospitals and medical facilities locally and nationally.

"Our mission and values drive all that we do," stated Scot Thompson, COO of C&A Industries. "As a company, we've positioned ourselves as a leader in our industry through innovation, by exploring new markets, and by capitalizing on opportunities - all while delivering a superior level of service." He continued, "The commitment to our vision and to our business principles have enabled us to thrive in what has been a rapidly changing business and economic environment. We're prepared for what lies ahead and are optimistic about our continued growth."

Inc. 500 companies posted aggregate 2003 revenue of \$12.6 billion. And while the United States shed 410,000 jobs in 2003, *Inc. 500* companies provided employment for more than 70,000 people.

"We are proud and honored to have once again been recognized by *Inc.* on this prestigious list. For a company of our size, being named for four consecutive years is rare and exceptional. It reconfirms what we've always believed - that a solid foundation makes growth and expansion possible," stated Larry Courtnage, CEO and founder of C&A Industries. "Our company is built on people - our dedicated corporate employees, our employees in the field, and our loyal clients. This honor belongs to them as well."

Kathy Wolf, CEO and founder of Celebrity Staffing, added, "As a company, we have much to celebrate and even more to look forward to. We take great pride in being recognized to the *Inc. 500* for four years as well as our top ten ranking in annual revenue. It's an achievement few companies are able to realize. We're proud to be one of them."

"The best thing you can say about this year's crop of *Inc. 500* entrepreneurs is that they didn't buy into the hype," said *Inc.* editor-in-chief John Koten. "When people were practically giving away funding in the late 1990s, these companies didn't overextend, and when everyone hit the panic button a few years later, they stayed calm and seized opportunity."

The *Inc. 500* ranks privately held companies according to averaged year-over-year sales growth over the past four years. With approximately 75% of all new job creation in the U.S. coming from small businesses, the *Inc. 500* is a prescient indicator of the companies and industries that are driving the economy forward. Eighty-five companies (17%) on this year's *Inc. 500* say they plan to go public at some point. Over the years, the *Inc. 500* has identified the next generation of world-class companies, with Microsoft, Stonyfield Farms, Timberland, Oracle, The Princeton Review, Morningstar, E* Trade, Intuit, and Domino's Pizza all appearing on the list before they became industry powerhouses.

This year's *Inc. 500* is the first to reflect the tremendous start-up costs prevalent in the late 1990s economic boom. Of the *Inc. 500* founders, 36% had start-up capital of less than \$20,000, compared with 48% last year—and 21% reported needing more than \$300,000 to get going, compared with only 14% last year. Just 7% of *Inc. 500* CEOs reported using formal venture capital to start their company, compared with 2% last year, while 62% depended entirely on private equity.

To be eligible for this year's *Inc. 500*, companies had to be independent and privately held through their fiscal year 2003, have had at least \$200,000 in net sales in the base year of 1999 for *Inc. 500* alumni and 2000 for new applicants, and \$2 million in net sales for 2003. In addition, their 2003 sales had to exceed 2002 sales. Companies are ranked on averaged year-over-year sales growth. *Inc.* verifies all information using tax forms and audited financial statements from certified public accountants and by conducting interviews with company officials.

About C&A Industries

C&A Industries, Inc., has provided Human Capital Management Solutions to a wide variety of industries for over 35 years. Their supplemental, contract-hire, and direct-hire programs serve the staffing needs of companies both locally and nationwide, including emerging, middle market and Fortune 500 firms. The company is comprised of six specialized recruitment firms, including Aureus Medical Group, Aureus Finance & Accounting, Aureus Executive, Aureus Systems, AurStaff, and Celebrity Staffing. Non-staffing divisions of the company include AurTravel, a full service travel agency, and AurHomes, specializing in corporate housing. Headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska, C&A Industries, Inc. and its subsidiaries have offices in Lincoln and Omaha, Nebraska; Overland Park, Kansas; Kansas City, Missouri; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Des Moines, Iowa.

In 2003, C&A Industries, Inc. received the Sustained Excellence Award from the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce for continued growth, having been recognized as Omaha's Fastest Growing Company in 2001 and 2002.

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