



Best Independent Research, LLC

Superior Stock Selection

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Top Performing Independent Research Consortium gets Outside Funding. Equity Stake to Strengthen Best Independent Research's Competitiveness in the Global Research Analyst Settlement.**

**Chicago, IL, April 26, 2004**, Best Independent Research LLC (BIR), a consortium of five of the nation's top performing independent research firms announced today that Global Insight (GI) has made an equity investment in the firm. Global Insight now has a 10% member stake, with options that could lead to 51% ownership in five years. GI's membership will strengthen BIR's ability to compete in the Global Research Analyst Settlement by enhancing the breadth of its products and finances.

Global Insight is a \$70 billion dollar international company that provides economic intelligence and consulting to many of the major governments, central banks and corporations around the globe.

Best Independent Research was founded in 2002 to compete in the Global Research Analyst Settlement and assume a leadership role in the changes occurring in investment research. Combined with Global Insight's top-down perspective, BIR will now offer investors and their advisors a full spectrum of advice that previously had only been available to major institutions. The firm will provide full coverage of the major economies as well as investment research reports on 2800 U.S. and international companies.

According to Investars,\* a third party monitor, the BIR members have cumulatively ranked # 1 for performance in 47% of the stocks in

Investars' coverage universe for the three years ending April 23, 2004.

Thomas S. White Jr., the president of BIR, said, "In response to new legislation and changing economics, the six members of BIR are developing a research organization appropriate for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. By adding Global Insight's powerful analysis and exceptional management, we have taken a giant step forward toward our goal of becoming the "gold standard" in terms of professionalism in investment research."

Joseph E. Kasputys, Global Insight's founder and CEO, stated, "This investment is just the beginning of a growing relationship between BIR and Global Insight that will result in exciting new capabilities for investors and financial market participants. The BIR member firms have unparalleled global coverage and a proven track record of accurate stock recommendations. Working together, we will expand the current BIR offering to include country and industry forecasts and risk assessments, along with the data and software needed for the investment process."

## **About Best Independent Research**

### **Best Independent Research, LLC (BIR)**

(<http://www.bestindependentresearch.com/>) is a consortium of five of the nation's most experienced independent research organizations. BIR provides its members' research to investment banks and securities brokers who wish to offer their clients stock recommendations from top performing research firms.

The founding members of BIR are Callard Research, LLC (Chicago, IL), Channel Trend (Dallas, TX), Columbine Capital Services (Colorado Springs, CO), Ford Equity Research (San Diego, CA), Thomas White International (Chicago, IL) and now Global Insight (Waltham, MA).

The BIR member firms offering equity advice have provided it to institutional clients for an average of 22 years. None are involved in banking, investment banking or brokerage services. Since it was not sold to broker-dealers in the past, BIR member research is only now becoming available to individual investors. Thomas White is president of BIR and chairman of Thomas White International, Ltd.

## **About Global Insight**

### **Global Insight, Inc. (GI)**

(<http://www.globalinsight.com/>) is a privately held company formed to bring together the two most respected economic analysis, forecasting and financial information companies in the world, DRI and WEFA. Global Insight provides the most comprehensive economic coverage of countries, regions and industries available, using a unique combination of expertise, models, data and software within a common analytical framework to support planning and decision-making. Global Insight collects and delivers economic and financial information to clients and also provides a broad range of consulting capabilities. With its April 2003 acquisition of World Markets Research Centre, Global Insight also provides the world's first same-day analysis and risk assessment service covering 196 countries and 4 industries, providing insightful analysis of market conditions and key events around the world. The company has over 3,300 clients in industry, finance and government with revenues in excess of \$70 million, over 600 employees and 23 offices in 12 countries covering North and South America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

## **About Investars\***

Investars (<http://www.investars.com/>) is an independent monitor of the stock recommendations made by research firms. Its website presents to the public the stock selection performance of over 125 investment banks and independent research providers.

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