



Contact: Keri Lucas
614.278.7023
klucas@biglots.com

Big Lots selected for CMP MEDIA *InformationWeek* 500

*Innovative Technology Practices
Earn Big Lots Place on Listing*

September 29, 2003 (COLUMBUS, OH) Today, Big Lots, the nation's largest broadline closeout retailer, announced that it has been named to CMP Media LLC's *InformationWeek* 500, a prestigious listing of the most innovative users of information technology in the United States.

For 15 years, the *InformationWeek* 500 has tracked organizations' IT agendas, providing a unique opportunity to understand and examine their business practices across core areas of operations. Companies named to this list demonstrate a pattern of technological, procedural, and organization innovation. Big Lots was ranked No. 389. General Motors, FedEx, and Harley-Davidson, as well as Owens & Minor, which is ranked No. 1, are some of the household names that made the list this year.

Economic conditions are showing signs of improvement at America's most innovative companies. Revenue across the *InformationWeek* 500 rose from \$9.4 billion in 2002 to \$9.6 billion in 2003. And despite lackluster business conditions in many sectors of the economy, the compound annual growth rate of the *InformationWeek* 500 is at 4.6% for the past seven years.

"America's most innovative companies are also devoting more dollars to technology initiatives this year. On average, the *InformationWeek* 500 will invest 3.7% of their annual revenue on technology for an average cash layout of \$353 million in 2003," said Rusty Weston, editor of *InformationWeek* Research. "This marks an upswing in technology investment compared to a year ago when the typical *InformationWeek* 500 company spent \$320 million on IT."

IT dollars are used primarily to develop, foster, and improve processes that promote information-sharing across and beyond the enterprise. Regulatory compliance is also prompting new IT spending in many sectors tracked by *InformationWeek*. Web-based architecture, productivity-centric tools and products, and IT infrastructure that promotes real-time data transmissions are among the key technology initiatives sought by this year's *InformationWeek* 500.

"Big Lots is proud to be named as one of the country's top users of innovative technology," said John Zavada, chief information officer at Big Lots. "We work hard at utilizing our business tools in the best ways possible and it is an honor to be recognized for these efforts."

"The *InformationWeek* 500 are a major force in the U.S. economy," said Stephanie Stahl, editor of *InformationWeek*. "Collectively, this year's 500 businesses will spend nearly \$177 billion on technology tools, products, and services. We expect this commitment to continue into 2004 when we estimate that the *InformationWeek* 500 will spend \$185 billion to establish and move technology initiatives forward."

The *InformationWeek* 500 is the most detailed source of industry-specific IT budget data. The research project gathered in-depth information directly from companies about how they approach and prioritize their IT investments. The research identified and ranked the companies following an extensive online and phone study.

About Big Lots

*Big Lots, Inc. (www.biglots.com) is the nation's largest broadline closeout retailer with annual revenues exceeding \$3.8 billion. Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, Big Lots operates more than 1,400 retail stores serving 45 states. Four regional distribution centers throughout the country, ranging in size from 1 million to 3 million square feet, provide the company's stores with brand-name products from more than 3,000 manufacturers. Big Lots offers merchandise at 20 to 40 percent below most discount retailers and up to 70 percent below conventional retailers. Founded in 1967, the company employs more than 40,000 associates across the U.S. By creating excitement with brand name closeouts and bargains through a unique shopping experience, Big Lots meets the needs of customers by providing an assortment of merchandise including consumables, seasonal products, furniture, housewares, toys, and gifts. Big Lots is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol **BLI**.*

About *InformationWeek*

InformationWeek helps more than 440,000 business-technology professionals who buy, build, and manage technology drive business innovation powered by technology. In addition to the weekly magazine, *InformationWeek* provides a platform of information solutions, including *InformationWeek.com*; *InformationWeek* Research; *InformationWeek* Events, which includes the *InformationWeek* Conference for business-technology executives; and the *InformationWeek* Daily, an E-mail news service. In May 2003, in conjunction with *Optimize*, *InformationWeek* launched its Media Network. The Media Network consists of *Optimize*, *Government Enterprise*, and *Healthcare Enterprise*, as well as its Vertical Industry Network publications, *Bank Systems and Technology*, *Insurance and Technology*, and *Wall Street and Technology*. *InformationWeek* is consistently recognized for its commitment to excellence and innovation, receiving several of the industry's top media accolades, including top spots in *Technology Marketing's* Influencers Report, *BtoB* Magazine's annual Media Power 50, as well as awards from ASBPE.

About CMP Media LLC

CMP Media LLC (www.cmp.com) is a leading high-tech media company providing essential information and marketing services to the entire technology spectrum--the builders, sellers, and users of technology worldwide. Capitalizing on its editorial strength, CMP is uniquely positioned to offer comprehensive, integrated media solutions tailored to meet marketers' individual needs. Its diverse products and services include newspapers, magazines, Internet products, research, direct-marketing services, education and training, trade shows and conferences, custom publishing, testing, and consulting.

###