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MID Allocation Application On Horizon for Big Lots

MID, Inc. partners with nation's closeout leader

Indianapolis, Indiana (January 12, 2003) — MID, (www.midretail.com) a leader in software products and solutions has joined forces with the nation's largest broadline closeout retailer. Big Lots will implement the MID "Advanced Allocation" application to better manage execution of the company's supply chain initiatives. The pilot program, set to launch this fall, will incorporate a new generation of allocation ideas that incorporate past best practice with new, forward thinking concepts.

"The advanced functionality of this system not only meets our business needs but will help us more strongly execute merchandising strategies and product offerings in an extremely diverse store base resulting in higher efficiency," said Lisa Bachmann, Big Lots senior vice president, merchandise planning and allocation. "Delivering the right product to the right stores at the right time is critical in meeting both individual store needs as well as the requirements of our customers."

The next generation system provides advanced store allocation and replenishment techniques to hardgoods and softgoods retailers making Big Lots an attractive partner for MID due to their national brand recognition and store locations.

John Zavada, chief information officer at Big Lots feels the software will help improve incremental sales and inventory turn. "We investigated available products in the market and are confident MID has introduced a solid software solution to the allocation and replenishment arena."

The original founder of MMS, INC., Chuck Miller, developed the application, which offers critical insight with respect to solving allocation problems with sophisticated technology while differentiating itself from competitive products. Miller believes MID's approach to solving just-in-time allocation provides a significant application every retailer will need to survive in an increasingly competitive marketplace. "This is truly new thinking based on years of experience combined with advanced technology, not old logic with a new face," noted Miller.

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Advanced Allocation Availability

Advanced Allocation is now available for Previews. Please call Chuck Miller or Joan Brendel at 908-766-3232.

About MID

Founded in 1981, MID has primarily been a provider of IT resources and services for software development and support. Mike Ruhana former co-founder of MMS, Inc acquired principal interest of MID in 2001. MID has employed 15 former MMS, Inc employees including Chuck Miller former co-founder of MMS, Inc and Joan Brendel former Senior Vice President of MMS, Inc. MID has commenced to offer best of breed software products for Store Planning, Assortment Planning, Allocation and Replenishment

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 and home, housewares, toys, and gifts. Big Lots, a Fortune 500 company, is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol **BLI**.