



For Immediate Release
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Mergent Acquires Ford Equity Research, A Leading Provider of Independent Research

*With a 30-Year Track Record of Above-Market Performance,
Ford Enhances Mergent's Independent Research Capabilities*

New York, NY, August 5, 2004 – Mergent, Inc., a leading independent provider of global corporate and financial information, has acquired Ford Equity Research, an established independent equity research firm with a 30-year high-performance track record and a strong client base among buy-side security analysts, mutual fund portfolio managers and hedge funds.

In conducting equity research, Ford applies value-added proprietary investment models to fundamental company data. The transparency of its data and investment methods, and the reliability of its valuation models are unique in the independent research market. The Ford Select Stock List of 20 stocks has outperformed the S&P 500 Index by a substantial margin since its inception in 1974.

“Because of its strong performance track record, Ford Equity Research is relied upon by hundreds of buy-side investment professionals,” said Mergent CEO Jonathan Worrall, in announcing the acquisition. “This is an excellent strategic fit for Mergent; it enhances our capabilities in the independent research market, an area that has taken on great significance over the past two years. Ford’s emphasis on data integrity and stock valuation match our own objectives.”

Worrall added that the capabilities and integrity of the firm’s founders, David and Fran (Ford) Morse, whom he has known personally since 1988, are held in the highest esteem. Mr. Morse will stay on with the company as Chairman Emeritus, working on a part-time basis. Ford’s current management team, responsible for running the company for the past few years, will continue in that capacity.

“We are delighted to become part of the Mergent family,” said Ford Chairman David Morse. “Mergent has developed a reputation for transparent quality data and research capabilities, and is among the leaders in the industry.”

The transaction was agreed on July 30, 2004. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

About Ford Equity Research

Ford Equity Research is an independent investment research firm based in San Diego, CA. with the primary objective of helping clients improve their investment performance. Ford has invested more than three decades collecting, validating and standing behind the highest quality fundamental current and historical data in the industry. This foundation allows Ford to construct and implement unique, successful stock selection models and powerful analytical software for its clients. More information about Ford Equity Research can be found at www.fordequity.com.



About Mergent

Mergent, Inc., a leading provider of global business and financial information on publicly traded companies and fixed income securities, is headquartered in New York, NY, and Charlotte, NC, and operates sales offices in key North American cities as well as London, Tokyo and Sydney. Mergent's products date back to 1900. More than 200,000 professional and individual clients worldwide turn to Mergent's products, which include its flagship Internet service Mergent Online, Mergent BondSource, Mergent Active, EventsData.com, the Dividend Achiever Index series and Mergent Manuals and Handbooks. Mergent is a Xinhua Finance Company.