

**FORBES' "200 BEST SMALL COMPANIES" FOR 2004—
COGNIZANT TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS IS #1 AGAIN*****Amedisys CEO William Borne named "Forbes Entrepreneur of the Year"***

New York, NY (October 14, 2004)—What qualifies a small company as one of *Forbes'* "200 Best" (p. 180)? First, candidates must show a consistent pattern of positive growth during a five-year period, as well as over the last 12 months. Other criteria are sales in the \$5 million to \$750 million range, net profit margins greater than 5%, and share prices above \$5 as of October 1, 2004. Excluded from consideration are financial institutions, government-regulated utilities and REITs, which are required to pay out 95% of their taxable income. Companies included this year are a very "diversified list of vibrant players," according to *Forbes*, with nine different industries represented in the top 10. Additionally, the list has 57 newcomers, with a few "200 Best" regulars, such as Engineered Support Systems and Corinthian Colleges, grown too large for the ranking. Several other members have also exhibited impressive growth over the last year: RC2, #43, rose 130 places, with a five-year EPS growth rate of 69%; and Resources Connection, #19, had a net income leap of 94% as it expanded its consulting services abroad.

"*Forbes* Entrepreneur of the Year" for 2004 (pg. 140) is William Borne, CEO of home health care company Amedisys, which is ranked #4 out of the 200, just below generic-drug maker Lannett, #3; natural resources tech developer Headwaters, #2; and IT service company Cognizant Technology Solutions, which tops the list at #1 for the second consecutive year. For more information, visit www.forbes.com/bestsmall.

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ATLANTIS RISING (p. 108)—Howard "Butch" Kerzner just took over as chief executive of a \$630 million casino resort company—now he's gambling \$3.5 billion on growth.

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