



News Release

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**SONIC CORP. CELEBRATES 11 YEARS ON
FORBES 200 BEST SMALL COMPANIES LIST**

OKLAHOMA CITY (December 13, 2004) — Outstanding financial performance and continued growth have earned Sonic a place on the Forbes 200 Best Small Companies list for the 11th consecutive year. Sonic is ranked 69th, up from its 108th ranking in 2003, and boasts the longest-standing tenure of any company on the list.

“It’s an honor for Sonic to be part of the Forbes 200 Best Small Companies list for the 11th consecutive year,” said Cliff Hudson, chairman, president and chief executive officer for Sonic Corp. “This recognition is a testament to the efforts of Sonic franchisees, drive-in managers and crew members, and the dedication of Sonic Corp. employees.”

Sonic is the only burger quick-service restaurant brand listed on the Forbes 200 Best Small Companies list, and is one of five restaurant companies listed in the Restaurant category.

For its Best Small Companies list, Forbes only considers publicly traded companies with 12-month sales of \$5 million to \$600 million, a stock price above \$5 per share, a five-year average return on equity of at least 5 percent, a net profit margin of at least 5 percent, and relative stock price strength among industry and market competitors. For more information about Forbes’ Best Small companies list, visit <http://www.forbes.com/200best/>.

Sonic, America's Drive-In (NASDAQ/NM: SONC) originally started as a hamburger and root beer stand in 1953 in Shawnee, Okla., called Top Hat Drive-In, and then changed its name to Sonic in 1959. The first drive-in to adopt the Sonic name is still serving customers in Stillwater, Okla. As the nation's largest chain of drive-in restaurants, Sonic has more than 2,900 drive-ins coast to coast and in Mexico. More than a million customers eat at Sonic every day. For more information about Sonic Corp. and its subsidiaries, visit Sonic at www.sonicdrivein.com.

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