



Contact: Robert J. Medlock
Executive Vice President &
Chief Financial Officer
(281) 897-7788

NCI BUILDING SYSTEMS SUBSTANTIALLY RAISES SECOND QUARTER EARNINGS GUIDANCE

HOUSTON (April 13, 2004) – NCI Building Systems, Inc. (NYSE: NCS) today announced that it has substantially increased its earnings guidance for its second quarter of fiscal 2004, ending May 1, 2004, to a minimum of \$0.35 per diluted share from the previous guidance of \$0.08 to \$0.12 per diluted share. NCI had earnings of \$0.11 per diluted share for the second quarter of fiscal 2003. The Company intends to release its second quarter financial results on May 26, 2004.

A.R. Ginn, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, remarked, “We are pleased to raise our earnings guidance for the second quarter based on stronger-than-expected revenues, which are being driven by increased volume particularly in our metal components and coatings operations. Despite having also exceeded earnings guidance for the first quarter of the fiscal year, we entered the second quarter with a cautious outlook due to the unusually rapid and significant pricing increases in the steel industry. Fortunately, by working with our customers, we have been able to pass most of the steel price increases through. We attribute the increase in volume to a greater demand created by an improving economic environment and customers placing orders in advance of announced price increases. The fixed cost nature of both our components and coatings operations, as well as our continuing cost management programs resulted in significant operating leverage for the quarter.”

Ginn also commented, “It appears that steel prices from our suppliers are beginning to stabilize. While steel supply remains tight, the Company believes it will be able to procure the steel necessary to fulfill customer requirements.”

NCI Building Systems, Inc. is one of North America's largest integrated manufacturers of metal products for the nonresidential building industry. The Company operates manufacturing and distribution facilities located in 16 states and Mexico.

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Some statements contained in this release are “forward-looking” statements, as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Actual performance of the Company may differ from that projected in such statements as a result of factors such as industry cyclicality and seasonality, adverse weather conditions, fluctuations in customer demand and order patterns, raw material pricing, competitive activity and pricing pressure and general economic conditions affecting the construction industry. Investors should refer to statements regularly filed by the Company in its annual report to the Securities and Exchange Commission on Form 10-K, its quarterly reports to the SEC on Form 10-Q and its current reports to the SEC on Form 8-K and other filings with the SEC for a discussion of factors which could affect the Company’s operations and forward-looking statements made in this communication. The Company expressly disclaims any obligation to release publicly any updates or revisions to these forward-looking statements to reflect any changes in expectations.

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