

# ***THE MIDDLEBY CORPORATION***

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## **Middleby Corporation Ranks #9 on Forbes Best Small Companies List**

Elgin, Ill., October 16, 2006—The Middleby Corporation (Nasdaq: MIDD) has ranked #9 on the Forbes Magazine 2006 Best Small Companies list, as featured in the magazine's October 30 issue. Of the 200 companies ranked, Middleby was also cited as the 10<sup>th</sup> highest-ranking company in return on equity over the past 12 months.

“Our management team and all of our employees worldwide are proud to have their efforts recognized through this ranking in Forbes Magazine,” said Middleby Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Selim A. Bassoul. “We have the best customers in the industry who constantly challenge us to develop new and innovative products for the commercial cooking market. We will continue to focus on equipment that delivers energy savings and faster cooking speeds for our customers, utilizing our in-house patented technologies across all of our brands.”

The Middleby Corporation is a global leader in the foodservice equipment industry. The company develops, manufactures, markets and services a broad line of equipment used for cooking and food preparation in commercial and institutional kitchens and restaurants throughout the world. The company's leading equipment brands include Alkar<sup>®</sup>, Blodgett<sup>®</sup>, Blodgett Combi<sup>®</sup>, Blodgett Range<sup>®</sup>, CTX<sup>®</sup>, Houno<sup>®</sup>, MagiKitch'n<sup>®</sup>, Middleby Marshall<sup>®</sup>, Nu-Vu<sup>®</sup>, Pitco Frialator<sup>®</sup>, RapidPak<sup>®</sup>, Southbend<sup>®</sup>, Toastmaster<sup>®</sup> and Wilder<sup>®</sup>. Middleby's international subsidiary, Middleby Worldwide, is a leading exporter and distributor of foodservice equipment in the global marketplace. Middleby's international manufacturing subsidiary, Middleby Philippines Corporation, is a leading supplier of specialty equipment in the Asian markets.

For further information about Middleby, visit [www.middleby.com](http://www.middleby.com).

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