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Business Performance Consulting

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Contact:

Cynthia Hunt - Chief Marketing Officer

CGN & Associates

Tel. (630) 453-3180

Email: cynthia.hunt@cgn.net

CGN & Associates Announces Acquisition of Blackwell Consulting Services

Global firm enhances impact with broader industry reach

Peoria, Illinois – April 21, 2011—CGN & Associates, a global business consulting firm, announced the acquisition of Blackwell Consulting Services and the launch of Blackwell Global Consulting LLC, a CGN company. As a wholly-owned subsidiary of CGN, Blackwell Global will focus on helping clients create sustainable competitive advantage through business process and technology-driven improvements.

"Blackwell's talented team complements our experience and business-centric approach to helping our clients succeed. CGN's focus on strategy, operations and execution will be enhanced by the process and technology focus of the Blackwell team," said CGN's CEO and Founder Seshadri Guha. "Blackwell has a strong reputation for thought leadership and a keen focus on the success of their customers. They also bring significant, complementary relationships in financial services, insurance and the public sector, and provide strategic support to the consumer products and energy industries. Their management consulting knowledge and expertise in enterprise technology solutions are valuable additions to CGN and will further propel our delivery of high-impact, innovative solutions to clients."

CGN is a Peoria-based global firm with operations in the United States, China, India and Europe. The firm has proven results in helping drive competitive advantage for Fortune 500 companies' global operations in areas of supply-chain management strategies, procurement, supplier collaboration, cost reduction and development of emerging market strategies. Blackwell has grown to become one of Chicago's most prominent, full-service management and information technology consulting firms. It has also been identified among the city's largest minority-owned businesses. The launch of Blackwell Global culminates nearly 20 years of recognized success for the firm and the vision of its founder Robert D. Blackwell, Sr.

"The alignment of these two entrepreneurial organizations enables our teams to continue to provide superior solutions for clients in the competitive global marketplace," said Blackwell, who will join CGN leadership as Founding Partner of Blackwell Global. "It's an especially exciting time for our

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consultants and associates who now have an expanded portfolio of services and capabilities to offer clients. In today's business climate, successful consulting firms must help clients improve their efficiency and reduce costs while positioning them for growth. We are confident that by joining the capabilities of CGN and Blackwell, the firm is better positioned to help our clients accomplish all three objectives."

Rod Beeler, Managing Partner of CGN becomes President and CEO of Blackwell Global. He brings more than 30 years of global business experience, having lived in Europe and Asia Pacific. "Whether operating locally or globally, our role will be to help clients exceed their own customers' needs," said Beeler. "At Blackwell Global, we will listen carefully to our clients and do everything we can to surpass their expectations. Our success is measured by their success."

Navneet Arora, CGN Partner, and Pamela Blackwell, joining CGN as Associate Partner, will round out the Blackwell Global leadership team. "We expect a seamless integration of our combined operations and are excited about the growth prospects for our new firm," said Arora.

James Carroll, managing director of Hunter Wise Financial Group, LLC and RBI Advisors, LLC, provided investment banking advisory and transaction services to CGN & Associates, Inc. and Blackwell Global Consulting, LLC.

About CGN & Associates:

CGN is a global business performance consulting firm with a presence in the United States, China, India and Europe. CGN works with executives and enterprises to create adaptive business models that enable them to respond, innovate and lead in the primary areas of supply chain and lean operations, material cost reduction, logistics, human-capital management and business-technology integration. Founded in 1995, CGN is a certified minority-owned business. Since the firm's inception, CGN leaders have been performance partners with Fortune 500 companies and government agencies, serving major industry sectors including automotive, financial services, healthcare, heavy equipment, manufacturing and government.

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For more information regarding CGN or the above release, please contact Cynthia Hunt at (630) 453-3180 or via email at cynthia.hunt@cgn.net.

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