



Charles River Associates Announces Grant of Nonqualified Inducement Stock Options to Key InteCap Personnel

May 17, 2004

BOSTON--(BUSINESS WIRE)--May 17, 2004--Charles River Associates Incorporated (NASDAQ: CRAI), an internationally known leader in providing economic, financial, and management consulting services, today announced that it has granted inducement stock options to purchase an aggregate of 315,920 shares of CRA common stock. The grants were made to 31 former InteCap, Inc. managing directors and other key members of InteCap's management who recently joined CRA in connection with the Company's acquisition of InteCap.

The grants were made under CRA's 2004 Nonqualified Inducement Stock Option Plan, which CRA adopted recently to facilitate the granting of stock options as an inducement to new employees to join CRA, pursuant to Rule 4350(i)(1)(A)(iv) of the Marketplace Rules of the Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc. CRA has reserved an aggregate of 500,000 shares of common stock for issuance under the plan, including the shares underlying the options announced today. In addition to the foregoing grants, most of these former employees of InteCap also received incentive stock options under CRA's 1998 Incentive and Nonqualified Stock Option Plan to purchase an aggregate of 93,750 shares of common stock.

Each option has a term of 10 years and an exercise price equal to the closing price of the common stock on the date of grant (May 14, 2004). In general, the options vest in four equal annual installments beginning on the first anniversary of the date of grant, with the incentive stock options vesting prior to the inducement stock options, and are generally non-transferable without CRA's approval.

About CRA

Founded in 1965, Charles River Associates is an economics, finance, and business consulting firm that works with businesses, law firms, accounting firms, and governments in providing a wide range of services. CRA, with its acquisition of InteCap, combines its expertise in economic and financial analysis, litigation and regulation support, business strategy and planning, market and demand forecasting, policy analysis, and engineering and technology management, with a premier consulting firm in the United States that specializes in valuation and strategic issues related to intellectual property and complex commercial and financial disputes. CRA will continue to pursue its corporate philosophy of providing responsive, top-quality consulting; an interdisciplinary team approach; unsurpassed economic, financial, and other analytic skills; and pragmatic business insights. In addition to its corporate headquarters in Boston and international offices in Auckland, Brisbane, Brussels, Dubai, London, Melbourne, Mexico City, Toronto, and Wellington, CRA also has U.S. offices in Chicago, College Station, Dallas, Houston, Mountain View, New York, Oakland, Palo Alto, Pasadena, Philadelphia, Salt Lake City, and Washington, D.C. More information about CRA can be found on its website at www.crai.com.

Statements in this news release may be considered forward-looking statements as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Information contained in these forward-looking statements is inherently uncertain, and actual performance and results may differ materially. Further information on factors that could affect CRA's financial results is included in its most recent Form 10-Q filed on April 1, 2004 with the Securities and Exchange Commission. CRA assumes no obligation and undertakes no duty to update its forward-looking statements to reflect new information or developments.

CONTACT:

Charles River Associates Incorporated
Phil Cooper, 617-425-3700

Sharon Merrill Associates, Inc.
Jim Buckley, 617-542-5300