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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

R.J. O'Brien Surpasses \$1 Billion in Assets

CEO Corcoran cites significant growth in retail, institutional and agri-business sectors

Chicago, January 12, 2005 – R.J. O'Brien and Associates, Inc. (RJO), one of the oldest and largest futures commission merchants, announced today that its customer assets grew to more than \$1.1 billion in 2004, a 40 percent annual increase.

RJO, recently ranked as the 19th largest broker by *Futures* magazine (Dec. 2004), will record more than \$145 million in revenue this year, a 30 percent increase over 2003, according to CEO Gerald F. Corcoran.

"Last year was a period of tremendous growth for R.J. O'Brien," Corcoran said. "We've seen significant expansion in our retail, institutional and agri-business segments. In addition, our acquisition of Harmonic Investment Management is helping us meet a rapidly growing customer demand for alternative investment products."

Harmonic, based in Memphis, TN., provides management and advisory services of alternative investment products to institutional and private clients on a global basis. Its funds include Harmonic Overture, the Tempo Fx Fund, and the Sciens Fund of Hedge Funds.

During 2004, RJO also became a clearing member firm of Eurex A.G., the world's largest futures exchange based in Frankfurt, Germany, and it plans to be a clearing member of the Euronext-Liffe markets in London by the second quarter of 2005.

RJO has grown dramatically in the *Futures* magazine rankings of the TOP 50 BROKERS, published annually – from 27th in 1999 when RJO had \$215 million in customer assets to 19th in 2004. In five years, the number of Introducing Brokers that RJO serves has grown from 169 to 200.

About R. J. O'Brien

Founded in 1914, R.J. O'Brien is a privately owned Futures Commission Merchant (FCM), and one of the oldest and best-known independent futures brokerage firms in the industry. RJO is a founding member of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, a full clearing member of the Chicago Board of Trade, New York Mercantile Exchange, Commodity Exchange of New York and the New York Board of Trade. RJO offers the latest in order entry technology coupled with 24-hour execution and clearing on every futures exchange worldwide. RJO services a nationwide network of 200 introducing brokers and some of the world's largest financial, industrial and agricultural institutions.

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