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GPO RANKED FIRST AMONG TOP 50 IN-PLANTS IN THE NATION, FOR 4th CONSECUTIVE YEAR

For the fourth year in a row, the Government Printing Office (GPO) has been named the top in-plant printing operation in the Nation, in a survey conducted by *In-Plant Graphics*, a widely respected journal of the in-plant printing industry. The ranking was released in the December 2001 issue of *In-Plant Graphics*.

In-Plant Graphics ranked in-plant operations from Federal, State, and local governments; universities; and the insurance, retail, and manufacturing sectors. The survey considered factors like annual sales, number of employees, budget, and number of printed jobs. According to the editor's note, "The in-plants on our list are models of efficiency. They are extremely cost conscious and customer focused. They continually look out for the good of their parent organizations. In short, they not only are large, they are extremely well run."

In-Plant Graphics said that GPO "retained its number one rank, despite reducing its [in-plant] work force by 62 employees since last year. Even so, it completed 10,800 more jobs." Responding to the selection, Public Printer Michael F. DiMario said, "We are extremely pleased to have the GPO recognized in this manner by *In-Plant Graphics*. This recognition is a direct reflection on the work performed here every day by the dedicated men and women of the GPO."

GPO provided a wide variety of materials used in the 2001 inauguration of President George W. Bush and Vice President Richard B. Cheney. A new 28" x 40" perfecting press and 4 new envelope presses were purchased, and GPO obtained congressional approval to replace the aging air conditioning system in its central office complex with new, energy-efficient equipment. Plans were set to obtain new on-demand printing systems as well as new passport printing and binding equipment.

GPO provided assistance to Congress and Federal agencies in the wake of the September 11 attacks. GPO produced the programs for the September 14 memorial service at the National Cathedral and has been turning out high priority work for the Defense Department. A new Web site was set up for a Federal agency when its intranet server was lost in the destruction of the World Trade Center, and personnel from GPO's Inspector General office helped in the recovery operations at the WTC and the Pentagon. GPO also provided temporary space for a number of Capitol Hill employees who were displaced by building closures due to anthrax, including U.S. Capitol Police security operations.

GPO continued to expand its Web-based operations in 2001. During the year, the number of titles made available on **GPO Access** (www.gpo.gov/gpoaccess) surpassed 225,000. The volume of traffic grew to more than 31 million document retrievals each month by the public, the equivalent of 1.5 terabytes of information, or about 750 million typewritten pages of documents.

The public's ever-increasing use of **GPO Access** and other Internet sources has affected GPO's sales of Government publications, and in 2001 GPO reducing the scope of its publication sales program by closing several of its retail bookstores. Stores in San Francisco, Boston, and Philadelphia were closed, as well as one of the three GPO bookstores in the Washington, DC, area. Additional stores may be closed in 2002 as GPO continues to adjust its retail operations to the new realities of Government information dissemination in the electronic era.

In other areas, a financial audit of GPO's finances by an independent audit firm during the year resulted in an "unqualified opinion," the highest level of assurance that an audit firm can give on financial statements.

(Self-Mailer)



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