

Companies shaping the future of finance

Financial News' second annual list of 21 technology companies for the 21st century picks out innovative businesses with the potential to shape the industry landscape in the new millennium. To find the 21, we scoured the markets and asked for recommendations from consultants and practitioners. Stock exchanges were excluded, as they occupy too privileged a position, as were investment banks.

We were looking for companies with innovative technology, a clear vision of how they might improve the markets in which they operate, and ideally some track record of success, however short. Two potentially transformational initiatives we ignored were Projects Boat and Turquoise, the bank consortiums formed to challenge the dominance of European stock exchanges in trade reporting and execution. As neither is yet operational it seemed premature to include them in the list. Technology companies working in all areas of the securities industry were considered. We hope the list offers a glimpse of the future.

Complinet

Compliance expert

Founded: 1997

Background: More than 100,000 regulatory professionals working in more than 1,200 companies – including all 20 of the Fortune 500 top 20 global financial services firms – across 81 countries rely on Complinet for analysis and compliance systems. Complinet, which employs more than 200 people in its offices in New York, London and Dubai, claims it is the only company to offer analysis and the systems to deliver compliance intelligence and services in real time to end-users.

Potential: No investment bank, fund manager, hedge fund, private equity house or broker wants to risk being late with regulation compliance. Many will often deal with as many as 200 regulators. Complinet continues to add to its market analysis and technology solutions to help ease the pain.

