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Clayton V. McNeff, ZirChrom Separations, Inc., Garners 2002 Tibbett's Award

(Anoka, Minnesota) – November 5, 2002 -- ZirChrom Separations, Inc., announced today that Clayton V. McNeff, PhD, Vice President, ZirChrom Separations, Inc., is a recipient of the 2002 Tibbett's Award from the Federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. The award is presented each year to small firms, organizations and individuals judged to exemplify the very best in SBIR achievement.

Dr. McNeff received the award in recognition of his achievement in innovation, research and business that contributed to the commercial success of ZirChrom Separations and its zirconia-based high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) columns.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded ZirChrom's initial SBIR grant in 1998. Since that time ZirChrom has received five additional SBIR awards (over \$1,800,000 combined total) and has secured over \$700,000 in outside support for further development of its new technology. Additionally, ZirChrom recently reached a formal supply and cooperation agreement with Cabot Corporation, a global specialty chemicals company. Cabot has assumed full marketing and sales responsibilities for the complete line of ZirChrom products. ZirChrom and Cabot are on target to achieve their new sales target for FY2002.

"We're honored to be recognized by the SBIR Tibbett's Awards," said Dr. McNeff. "The SBIR grants that we have received over the past four years have allowed us to focus on developing innovative new technology products, and to establish effective business collaborations. Both initiatives have had a positive economic impact on the state of Minnesota, the region, and most importantly our employees."

About ZirChrom Separations

ZirChrom Separations, Inc. is a company formed in 1995 and located in Anoka, Minnesota. ZirChrom manufactures a full line of zirconia-based high performance chromatographic materials for analysis and purification by high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC).

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