

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ZirChrom Separations Inc. Garners Minnesota Project Innovation Award
For Research Advancements in Chromatography**

(Anoka, MN) – (April 25, 2002) – ZirChrom Separations, Inc., will receive an award recognizing its entrepreneurial spirit and innovative excellence from Minnesota Project Innovation. The award will be presented on April 26, 2002, in Minneapolis, MN.

ZirChrom will be honored with the Federal Agency Award, presented to companies that have researched, developed and successfully marketed key technologies with funding from federal grants. Dr. Bingwen Yan and John Freeburg, on behalf of ZirChrom will accept the award.

Over the past four years, ZirChrom developed several zirconia-based chromatography products with grant funds from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and National Institute for Health (NIH). The company's most recent product success, DiamondBond HPLC carbon-based columns, were developed in partnership with Cabot Corporation.

The list of federal grants awarded to ZirChrom since 1998 include:

October 1, 2001 - March 31, 2002, NIH, Phase I (1 R43 HL070334-01), \$100,000, "Surface Carbon Clad Zirconia as Chiral Stationary Phases," Cabot Corporation, (Dr. Angelos Kyrilidis).

September 1, 2001 - August 31, 2002, NSF, Phase IIB (DMI-9901750), \$350,000, "Zirconia for Ultrafast Liquid Chromatography", Cabot Corporation, (Dr. Angelos Kyrilidis).

March 1, 2000 - February 28, 2002, NIH, Phase II (2 R44 GM58354-02), \$750,000, "Production of Preparative Zirconia by Spray Drying", University of Minnesota Department of Ag Biosystems (Dr. Anu Subramanian).

August 1, 1999 - July 31, 2001, NSF, Phase II (DMI-9901750), \$400,000, "Zirconia for Ultrafast Liquid Chromatography", University of Minnesota Department of Chemical Engineering (Dr. Alon V. McCormick).

September 30, 1998 - March 31, 1999, NIH, Phase I (1 R43 GM58354-01), \$100,000, "Production of Preparative Zirconia by Spray Drying", University of Minnesota Department of Ag Biosystems (Dr. Anu Subramanian).

January 1, 1998 - June 30, 1998, NSF, Phase I (DMI-9761543), \$100,000, "Nonporous Zirconia for Ultrafast Liquid Chromatography", University of Minnesota Department of Chemical Engineering (Dr. Alon V. McCormick).

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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