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April 03, 2002 14:35

North Carolina SRT Grants Exclusive License to Filtration-Related Intellectual Property to ESCO Technologies

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CARY, N.C.--(BW HealthWire)--April 3, 2002--**North Carolina SRT**, Inc., a leading manufacturer and supplier of cross-flow filtration systems and modules for various separation sciences, has granting exclusive rights to its patent portfolio and related intellectual property to ESCO Technologies, Inc. (NYSE:ESE). ESCO, a leading supplier of engineered filtration products to the process, health care and transportation markets worldwide, will also purchase certain production assets and inventory of **North Carolina SRT**.

North Carolina SRT's innovative cross-flow filtration modules utilize a unique rib design that enhances the performance of the filtration membrane, allows for predictable scale-up (from lab to production) and enables thorough cleaning of the modules to 3-A Sanitary Standards. ESCO's subsidiary, PTI, expects to begin manufacturing **North Carolina SRT's** products at its Oxnard, CA facility by the end of fiscal year 2002.

"We are extremely excited and optimistic about the opportunities made available for both our innovative filtration technologies and our loyal customers through this agreement with ESCO and PTI," stated Hank Kopf, Founder and Chief Technology Officer of **North Carolina SRT**.

The execution of this agreement completes the first phase of **North Carolina SRT's** Strategic Intellectual Property Management Program. Last year, **North Carolina SRT** retained InteCap, Inc., a market leading intellectual property consulting firm, to develop and implement a Strategic IP Management Program. InteCap served as **North Carolina SRT's** strategic and financial advisors during negotiations with ESCO. Going forward, InteCap may assist **North Carolina SRT** and ESCO in the implementation of the next phase

ESCO TECHNOLOGIES
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of the Strategic Program, which includes exploring other licensing opportunities for the patented technologies.

"We are pleased to have reached an agreement with ESCO that is truly a mutually beneficial arrangement," stated David A. Kennedy, Managing Director for InteCap. "In addition, we are equally as excited about pursuing other potential licensing opportunities available for the technologies."

Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge & Rice acted as **North Carolina SRT's** legal counsel throughout the negotiations with ESCO. Specifically, Deborah Hylton, a partner in Womble Carlyle's Research Triangle Park, N.C. office, led a team of lawyers that served as **North Carolina SRT's** legal advisors on this transaction. In addition, **North Carolina SRT's** intellectual property team included Steven J. Hultquist of Intellectual Property/Technology Law, who has served as patent counsel to Hank Kopf since 1986, and to **North Carolina SRT** from its inception.

About **North Carolina SRT**, Inc.

North Carolina SRT, headquartered in Cary, North Carolina, manufactures and supplies a complete line of high performance cross-flow filtration systems and modules. Founded in 1989 by Henry B. "Hank" Kopf, **North Carolina SRT** is a pioneer in the filtration industry, specifically pharmaceutical / biotechnology and dairy filtration applications. Hank Kopf and Henry Kopf III (President and CEO of **North Carolina SRT**), currently hold 29 issued U.S. patents with various other pending patent applications and foreign counterpart patents.

About InteCap, Inc.

InteCap is an international consulting firm dedicated to advising clients on economic, valuation and strategy issues related to IP and complex commercial disputes. With 11 offices throughout the United States and United Kingdom, InteCap comprises over 200 consulting professionals with backgrounds in accounting, economics, engineering, finance, marketing and statistics. InteCap was the first consulting firm in the U.S. to launch an integrated practice dedicated to helping companies manage and extract value from their IP. InteCap has a renowned group of IP valuation specialists that facilitate "IP-rich" transactions, licensing agreements and resolution of disputes. InteCap also provides financial advisory and negotiation support services to high-tech start-ups, leading corporations and providers of capital involved in "IP-rich" transactions.

Companies interested in discussing available licensing alternatives for patented technologies may contact either David Kennedy or Michael McLaughlin of InteCap at 404/874-0026 or dkennedy@intecap.com and mmclaughlin@intecap.com.

About Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge & Rice

Womble Carlyle, which traces its history to 1876, is a full-service business law firm that delivers sophisticated legal services to a wide spectrum of regional, national and international business clients in industries that include financial services, commercial real estate, information technology, health care, manufacturing and telecommunications. Womble Carlyle also represents a variety of

governmental units and agencies. Womble Carlyle comprises approximately 450 lawyers operating from offices in Atlanta, Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Research Triangle Park, Raleigh, Greensboro, Greenville, SC, McLean, VA and Washington, DC.

About Intellectual Property/Technology Law

Intellectual Property/Technology Law (IPTL) is a patent law firm in Chapel Hill, NC. Founded in 1992 by Steven J. Hultquist, the firm represents clients in patenting leading edge technologies in the fields of medicine, biotechnology, materials science, microelectronics, chemistry and information technologies. In addition to a primary focus on securing patent rights for its clients, the firm engages in intellectual property-related transactional work, including: technology transfer; purchase, sale and leases of proprietary equipment; due diligence incident to acquisitions; product/process clearance; agreements related to joint ventures and other collaborations; infringement matters; misappropriation of technology and corporate opportunity; brokering of technology; assessments of proprietary rights incident to initial public offerings, private placements and venture capital funding; determinations of inventorship; and implementation of systems for the administration and management of intellectual property. IPTL's founder, Steven Hultquist is licensed in New York, North Carolina, California, and Connecticut, and has been registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office since 1976. Mr. Hultquist represented Hank Kopf and **North Carolina SRT** in patent interference proceedings before the United States Court of Appeals and United States Supreme Court in 1996, successfully securing patents now licensed by **North Carolina SRT** to ESCO Technologies, Inc.

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