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For Immediate Release

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PRO-LIQUITECH INTERNATIONAL ON ELEVENTH ANNUAL INNER CITY 100

Boston, MA, May 20, 2009, 8 pm - Today, the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (ICIC) released its 2009 Inner City 100 list, and Pro-Liquitech International is ranked #60 on the list of the fastest growing inner-city companies in America. Last year, Pro-Liquitech International was ranked #70 on the Inner City 100 List. Innovative practices and sustained growth are the predominant traits of the 2009 Inner City 100, a ranking of the 100 fastest-growing businesses in inner city communities nationwide.

Now in its 11th year, the Inner City 100 list provides unmatched original data on the fastest growing inner-city businesses in the U.S. For the 2009 list, over 5,000 nominations were received. The 2009 Inner City 100 winners grew at a compound annual growth rate of 40 percent and an average rate of 324 percent between 2003 and 2007. Collectively, the top 100 inner city businesses have employed nearly 17,000 people and created nearly 10,000 new jobs over the past five years.

Fifty-three percent of companies expect steady growth, 11 percent expect their revenues to double, six percent expect their revenues to triple, and a mere four percent expect their revenues to decline in 2009. Individually, the average Inner City 100 Company's revenues were \$23 million.

"We are delighted to celebrate businesses like Pro-Liquitech International that are playing a critical role to revitalize distressed urban communities throughout America," said Michael Porter, founder and CEO of ICIC. "By creating jobs, income, and wealth for local residents, these high-growth businesses are vivid proof that the most effective way to address economic inequality in America is to equip every community to prosper in the market system. Inner City 100 companies also provide a window into the future where all companies will need to learn to address diverse customers and mobilize diverse workforces."

Formed in 1992 by David A. Dafoe, Pro-Liquitech International was the perfect union of its founder's prior successes in flavor development with Tastemaker, where he specialized in beverage flavors for large multinational food and beverage companies, and in product and flavor development with Brown-Forman Corporation, where he led the development of the Jack Daniel's Country Cocktail and Southern Comfort Cocktail products, and provided cost-reduction research for Early Times Kentucky Whisky and Canadian Mist Blended Whisky.

Today, a short, yet highly successful seventeen years later, Pro-Liquitech International is an international flavor and product development company positioned as a leader in the beverage industry. Quite simply, Pro-Liquitech International is capable of lending expert assistance to every facet of product development, from conception, through research and development, and on to production, for beverage and food products intended for domestic or foreign markets.

Beginning the next phase of growth in 2005, Pro-Liquitech International purchased and designed a new building for its international headquarters. This new facility houses a suite of offices, conference rooms, a beverage laboratory, concentrate blending operations and a storage warehouse. This allowed the company to expand its operations, add new employees and create a center of beverage product development unique to the industry. This new building promotes a sense of history, gives us the ability to house additional employees, is close to the city core and reflects the company culture.

The 2009 Inner City 100 winners operate from 55 cities in 31 states. The list is proof of concept that doing business in an inner city area holds a distinct competitive advantage. ICIC has been studying the economic condition of the largest 100 American cities for more than a decade and is working to revitalize inner cities across the country.

Highlights of the 2009 Inner City 100 list include:

- Inner City 100 companies are 34 percent minority-owned. Nationally, just 8 percent of companies with annual revenues over \$1 million are minority-owned.
- The 2009 Inner City 100 companies are 18 percent owned by immigrants to the United States.
- 21 percent of the 2009 Inner City 100 are women-owned. Nationally, only 10 percent of companies with over \$1 million in annual revenues are women-owned.
- The 2009 Inner City 100 boasts an average workforce that is 53 percent minority employees and 43 percent inner city residents.
- The 2009 Inner City 100 pay an average of over \$15.00 per hour to hourly employees and \$53,000 per year to salaried employees.

For more information about the 2009 Inner City 100 list, please contact Julia Ely at (617) 292-2383. The entire list can be found at www.icic.org