



Simpler Safer Surgery

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**INNEROPTIC RECEIVES SBIR PHASE II AWARD
FROM THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

Chapel Hill, NC March 31, 2005 – InnerOptic announces the receipt of an NSF SBIR Phase II award, extending the Phase I project entitled "Three-Dimensional Laparoscope." This grant, which will span a two-year period, will allow further development of the company's 3D Laparoscope technology, which aims to assist surgeons with minimally invasive procedures by acquiring and displaying true 3D data from inside the body.

InnerOptic Co-Founder and President Kurtis Keller commented, "We at InnerOptic are thrilled to receive this award. We are excited to be able to continue development of this technology, which we believe will dramatically improve minimally invasive surgery."

The SBIR (Small Business Innovation Research) program was started as part of the Small Business Innovation Development Act in 1982. It is designed to increase the incentive and opportunity for small firms to undertake cutting-edge, high-risk, high-quality scientific, engineering, or science/engineering education research that will have a high potential economic payoff if the research is successful.

About InnerOptic Technology, Inc

InnerOptic was founded in 2003 to commercialize the patented 3D Laparoscope technology, initially developed by researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. A privately held company, InnerOptic is currently head-quartered in Hillsborough. For more information, please visit <http://www.inneroptic.com/>

