



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Virent Board of Directors Welcomes New Member

Bell's Election to Board Strengthens Independent Status

Madison, Wisconsin – January 18, 2012 – Virent announced that Bradley J. Bell has joined its Board of Directors. As part of his Board responsibilities, Mr. Bell will chair Virent's Audit Committee and serve as a member of the Compensation Committee. "I am delighted to welcome Brad to the Virent Board of Directors," said Virent CEO Lee Edwards. "His depth of executive leadership experience in chemicals, finance and manufacturing is a great fit for Virent's future plans. Brad has a strong track record of success in public and private companies which strengthens Virent's independent governance capabilities as we progress plans for commercialization."

Bell served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Nalco Company from October 2003 through 2010. For six years prior to joining Nalco, Mr. Bell was Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Rohm and Haas Company, now part of Dow Chemical. His previous experience included the Vice President and Treasurer roles at both Whirlpool Corporation and Bundy Corporation. Earning a B.S. in Finance, Mr. Bell graduated with high honors from the University of Illinois. He holds a M.B.A., conferred with distinction, from Harvard University Graduate School of Business.

"Virent has pioneered some amazing, proprietary technologies addressing the world's needs for clean technology fuels and chemicals," Bell said. "I am pleased to be able to play a role in the Company's future development." Mr. Bell is a member of the Board of Directors at IDEX Corporation, Compass Minerals International and Opportunity International, a not-for-profit pioneer in microenterprise development attacking poverty among the world's poorest communities in 30 countries.

About Virent, Inc.

Virent is replacing crude oil by creating the chemicals and fuels the world demands using a wide range of naturally-occurring, renewable resources. Its patented technology features catalytic

chemistry to convert plant-based sugars into a full range of products identical to those made from petroleum, including gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, and chemicals for plastics and fibers. The products are drop-in replacements that enable full utilization of existing logistics infrastructure without blending limitations. The development of Virent's BioForming® technology platform is supported through strategic investors, including Cargill, Coca-Cola, Honda and Shell, as well as 120 employees based in Madison, Wisconsin.

The company has received several grants from the U.S. Departments of Commerce, Energy and Agriculture and has been recognized with many honors, including the World Economic Forum Technology Pioneer award and the EPA's Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award. Please learn more at www.Virent.com.

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