

*For Immediate Release*

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## **Mark Halsey Joins SmithBucklin as Research Director for the United Soybean Board**

**CHICAGO – April 24, 2006** – SmithBucklin, the world’s largest association management company, announced today that Dr. Mark Halsey has joined the company as a Research Director supporting the United Soybean Board (USB). In his new role, Halsey will work out of SmithBucklin’s St. Louis office to manage USB-funded research projects in agronomics, genetics and crop protection, aiming to protect and improve soybean yield and lead to desirable soybean composition. USB’s mission is to make the United States the world soybean leader by improving quality, discovering new uses and driving demand.

“Mark is a tremendous addition to our USB team,” said SmithBucklin Senior Director Mark Winkle. “He brings incredible experience and accomplishments to his new role, and we are excited to have him on board.”

Prior to joining SmithBucklin, Halsey worked at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center in St. Louis on a USAID-funded program. The program provided biosafety training, regulatory support and consultative guidance to African scientists and regulators involved in the testing and development of genetically modified crops.

Previously, Halsey spent 20 years at Monsanto in research and development roles that included the establishment of a bioevaluation laboratory in Belgium, the oversight of regulatory field trials with agrichemical and biotechnology products, the development of fungicides, and the supervision of field research on Plant-Made Pharmaceuticals. Mark received his doctorate in plant pathology from Oregon State University.

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### **About SmithBucklin**

SmithBucklin is the world’s largest association management and professional services company providing flexible, tailored full-service management and function/project-specific services to more than 210 trade associations, professional societies, technology user groups and government institutes/agencies. SmithBucklin’s mission is to drive growth and build sustained competitiveness for client organizations. Founded in 1949, the company employs 630 professionals specializing in all phases of association activity including executive management, member and chapter administration, convention and trade show management, marketing and branding, Web services, education and programs, government relations and financial management. SmithBucklin manages more than \$200 million in annual client budgets from offices in Chicago, Washington, DC, St. Louis and Durham, NC. SmithBucklin is 100 percent employee owned. For more information, please visit [www.smithbucklin.com](http://www.smithbucklin.com) or call 1.800.539.9740.