

For immediate release

**TEKNION'S SYNAPSE WOOD GUEST CHAIR WINS
BLOOM AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE DESIGN**

*Annual awards program honors products that embody both
aesthetics and environmental responsibility*

TORONTO, March 26, 2009 – Teknion Corporation today announced that its Synapse contemporary wooden side chair was honored with a Bloom Award for its strong sustainable design. Synapse finished first in the Furniture category in the annual award sponsored by *Interiors & Sources* magazine in partnership with the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID).

Designed by Carl Gustav Magnusson for the contract, healthcare, hospitality and library markets, Synapse is environmentally friendly. It is comprised of just five parts. All are replaceable or interchangeable, allowing quick and simple replacement of parts in the field. When shipped flat in a carton, the chair requires one-third less space, maximizing shipping and installation efficiencies, and assembling on the job site in under five minutes.

“I was first struck with the aesthetic simplicity of this entry. It has nice clean and simple lines and a slight curvilinear back. The chair also has a very good life-cycle since many of the parts can be easily replaced,” commented Tim Schelfe, Bloom Awards judge and Principal of Schelfe and Associates.

“By working with a variety of third-party certifiers, this manufacturer begins to address the full life-cycle impact of a chair and the manufacturing process. Teknion addresses the wood resource extraction by using FSC wood; simple assembly and disassembly by using minimal parts; using recycled content materials in the frame and fabric selection; and following strict guidelines in regards to emissions reduction from the chair itself and the overall manufacturing process,” noted Elaine Aye, Principal of Green Building Services Inc, and a Bloom Awards judge.

Products in five categories – Furniture, Flooring, Lighting, Textiles and Innovative Materials – were judged in the 2009 Bloom Awards against stringent criteria, including:

- the extent to which the product is environmentally innovative and aesthetically pleasing
- how the product promotes sustainability through energy savings, recycled content, recyclability, life-cycle assessments and end-of-life management
- materials selection within the manufacturing process, including the use of less harmful materials

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- resource efficiency within the manufacturing process, with an emphasis on water and energy use
- recycling and waste management within the manufacturing process, and after the product has completed its life cycle

Synapse is Greenguard Certified for indoor air quality and manufactured at facilities certified to the ISO 14001 environmental management system. Synapse meets BIFMA (The Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association) standards and CGSB (Canadian General Standards Board) testing standards.

“We are excited to be among the small circle of companies recognized with 2009 Bloom Awards, and equally pleased by this new initiative by *Interiors & Sources* and the ASID that encourages and celebrates sustainable design in our industry,” said David Feldberg, Teknion President & CEO.

Teknion Corporation is a leading international designer, manufacturer and marketer of office systems and related office furniture products. Teknion headquarters are located in Toronto, Ontario. The company has offices and facilities in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, India, Russia and Malaysia, and serves clients through a network of authorized dealers worldwide. Visit Teknion at www.teknion.com.

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