

NOVELLUS APPOINTS TWO NEW MEMBERS TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SAN JOSE, Calif., April 19, 2004--Novellus Systems, Inc. (Nasdaq NM: NVLS), the productivity and innovation leader in advanced deposition, surface preparation and chemical mechanical planarization processes for the global semiconductor industry, today named two new members to its board of directors. The incoming members are Neil R. Bonke, 62, former chairman and chief executive officer of Electroglas, Inc. and Dr. Youssef A. El-Mansy, 59, retired vice president and director of logic technology development at Intel Corp.

"Novellus is pleased to name two such high-caliber executives to its board," said chairman and chief executive officer, Richard S. Hill. "Their in-depth familiarity with our industry and our business will serve Novellus' shareholders well as the company moves into the next stage of its growth."

Mr. Bonke currently serves on the board of Sanmina-SCI Corporation. In the past he also served as a director of the San Jose State University Foundation. He holds a bachelor of science degree in engineering and technical marketing from Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y.

During his 20-year tenure at Intel, Dr. El-Mansy played a key role in the development of microprocessor technology, heading up Intel's leading Technology and Manufacturing Group processor design center. He also managed two of the company's wafer manufacturing facilities. Prior to joining Intel in 1979, Dr. El-Mansy held engineering positions at Bell Northern Research in Canada. He holds a bachelor of science and masters degrees in electronics and communications from Alexandria University in Egypt, and a Ph.D. in electronics from Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada.

About Novellus:

Novellus Systems, Inc., an S&P 500 company, manufactures, markets and services advanced deposition, surface preparation and chemical mechanical planarization equipment for today's advanced integrated circuits. Our products are designed for high-volume production of advanced, leading-edge semiconductor devices at the lowest possible cost. Headquartered in San Jose, Calif., with subsidiaries throughout the United States, as well as in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Ireland, Italy, Israel, India, China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and Taiwan, we are a publicly traded company on the Nasdaq stock exchange (Nasdaq: NVLS) and a component of the Nasdaq-100 Index®. Additional information about Novellus is available on our home page at www.novellus.com

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