

NOVELLUS APPOINTS DR. TOM CAULFIELD AS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF SALES, MARKETING AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

SAN JOSE, Calif., October 25, 2005 Novellus Systems, Inc. (Nasdaq NM: NVLS), the productivity and technology leader in advanced deposition, surface preparation and chemical mechanical planarization processes for the global semiconductor industry, today announced that Dr. Tom Caulfield has joined the company as executive vice president of sales, marketing and customer satisfaction, reporting to Novellus' chairman of the board and chief executive officer Richard S. Hill. Dr. Caulfield, 46, will be responsible for marketing and selling the company's products and services as well as driving operational performance throughout Novellus' global sales and service regions.

A 16-year veteran of IBM, Dr. Caulfield's background spans a wide range of responsibilities, including semiconductor manufacturing and packaging, technology development, supply chain management, pro forma P&L, and business transformation across a worldwide enterprise. In his most recent assignment as the vice president of 300mm semiconductor operations, Dr. Caulfield led the significant operational and financial turnaround of IBM's premier semiconductor facility located in East Fishkill, New York. Prior to joining IBM, he worked at Philips Laboratory as a senior member of the research staff. Dr. Caulfield began his career working at Columbia University.

Dr. Caulfield earned two undergraduate degrees one in materials science/metallurgy from Columbia University and another in physics from St. Lawrence University. He received both his master's and doctorate degrees in materials science/metallurgy from Columbia University.

"I am delighted to have a seasoned leader like Tom join our team," said Hill. "With his experience in running the beginning-to-end operations of a premier 300mm fab, Tom will bring a very critical combination of customer perspective, fab operations insight and industry knowledge to the company's sales, marketing and service organizations. I believe his background and skills will make him a great asset in helping us continue to grow market share in an increasingly competitive environment."

"Safe Harbor" Statement under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995:

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, including the statement regarding our belief that Dr. Caulfield will assist in continuing to grow our market share in an increasingly competitive environment, as well as other matters discussed in this news release that are not purely historical data. Forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated by the forward-looking statements. Such risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, downturns in the economy, weakening customer demand for our products, semiconductor manufacturers' adoption of competitor products, inability to innovate, and difficulties arising from personnel transition and integration, as well as other risks indicated in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). We assume no obligation to update this information. For more details, please refer to our SEC filings and the amendments thereto, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004, our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended July 2, 2005 and April 2, 2005 and our Current Reports on Form 8-K.

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.

PRESIDENT-OF-SALES,-MARKETING-AND-CUSTOMER-SATISFACTION