NOVELLUS ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF THE WEBCAST OF ITS PRESENTATION AT MERRILL LYNCH'S HARDWARE HEAVEN TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

NOVELLUS ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF THE WEBCAST OF ITS PRESENTATION AT MERRILL LYNCH’S HARDWARE HEAVEN TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE SAN JOSE, Calif., April 23, 2002—Novellus Systems, Inc. (Nasdaq:NVLS), the productivity and innovation leader in advanced deposition and surface preparation processes for the global semiconductor industry, today announced that Richard S. Hill, Novellus’ chairman and chief executive officer, will present on April 30, 2002, at Merrill Lynch’s Hardware Heaven Technology Conference. The presentation will begin at 8:00 a.m. PDT and will be made available over the Internet via a live webcast.

You may access the live webcast presentation via Novellus’ Investor Relations home page at www.novellus.com/. A replay of the webcast will be available for 7 days following the conference.

About Novellus Systems:

Novellus Systems Inc., an S&P 500 company, manufactures, markets and services advanced deposition and surface preparation equipment for today’s advanced integrated circuits. The company’s 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, Israel, Italy, India, China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and Taiwan, Novellus is a publicly traded company on the Nasdaq stock exchange (Nasdaq:NVLS) and is a component of the Nasdaq-100 Index&Reg; . Additional information about the company is available on Novellus’ home page at www.novellus.com

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