NOVELLUS ANNOUNCES DEPARTURE OF ROBERT H. SMITH FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOVELLUS ANNOUNCES DEPARTURE OF ROBERT H. SMITH FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS SAN JOSE, Calif., Aug. 7, 2002—Novellus Systems, Inc. (Nasdaq:NVLS), the productivity and innovation leader in advanced deposition and surface preparation technology for the global semiconductor industry, announced today that Robert H. Smith, 65, has retired from its Board. Smith most recently served as the company's executive vice president of administration.

"I have had a long and productive tenure at Novellus, as both a Board member and an executive officer," said Smith. "I retire from the Board with full confidence in the current Board and management of the company."

Richard S. Hill, chairman and chief executive officer commented, "We are thankful for Bob's many years of sage advice, for the sound financial footing on which he leaves the company, and for the excellent accounting, finance and treasury functions he has developed and supervised." Hill added, "We will be actively seeking a replacement for Bob on the Board, most probably from outside the company."

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 a component of the Nasdaq-100 Index®. Additional information about the company is available on Novellus' home page at www.novellus.com

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