NOVELLUS ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD MEMBER

SAN JOSE, Calif., Feb. 24, 2003—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 announced the election of Ann D. Rhoads to its board of directors. Ms. Rhoads is the senior vice president and chief financial officer of Premier, Inc. located in San Diego, Calif. She will replace Robert H. Smith, who retired from Novellus' board in August 2002.

Commenting on the change in board composition, Novellus' chairman and chief executive officer, Richard S. Hill, stated, "Novellus is very pleased to have a financial executive of Ms. Rhoads' caliber on our board of directors. Ann will bring financial and supply-chain management expertise, which will be most helpful as we endeavor to lower our cost by using a worldwide supply chain."

Prior to joining Premier, Ms. Rhoads had been a vice president with the Sprout Group, the venture capital affiliate of Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette, and a management consultant with Bain & Company. Ms. Rhoads also spent four years with Merrill Lynch in its private equity/LBO group and its mergers and acquisitions department.

Ms. Rhoads received a master's degree in business administration from the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration and a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Arkansas.

About Novellus Systems:

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. 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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