NOVELLUS ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY AND TIMING OF MID-QUARTER UPDATE CONFERENCE CALL WEBCAST FOR SECOND QUARTER 2003

SAN JOSE, Calif., May 15, 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 that it will provide its mid-quarter update for the second quarter 2003 in a conference call to be held Thursday, May 29, 2003, beginning at 1:30 p.m. PDT. The call will be available via an audio webcast that can be accessed on Novellus' Investor Relations home page, located at www.novellus.com. A replay of the webcast will be available for seven days following the conference call.

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, 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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