NOVELLUS NAMES THOMAS ST. DENNIS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF SALES AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

SAN JOSE, Calif., July 8, 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 appointment of Thomas St. Dennis (50) as executive vice president of sales and customer satisfaction. St. Dennis replaces John Chenault, who will move to the position of vice president of administration. St. Dennis will join Richard S. Hill and Peter Hanley in Novellus' Office of the CEO.

St. Dennis was most recently president and CEO of Wind River Systems. Prior to joining Wind River Systems, St. Dennis spent 20 years in the semiconductor industry, including a seven-year tenure at Applied Materials. During his time at Applied Materials, St. Dennis was president of the PVD Product Business Group until 1997. In 1997, he became president of the Planarization and Dielectric Deposition Product Business Group and was responsible for the company's Chemical Mechanical Polishing (CMP) products and Dielectric CVD products. During St. Dennis' time in the semiconductor equipment industry, he has earned a reputation among customers for his integrity and his ability to deliver high-quality products and services.

Commenting on St. Dennis' appointment, Novellus' chairman and CEO, Richard S. Hill, stated, "I've been working on convincing Tom to join Novellus for a long time. His knowledge, skills and abilities are recognized within our industry and by all of the people who have worked with him. Tom brings additional depth to the already strong Novellus management team. I am personally gratified that Tom appreciates Novellus' solid position in the market and that he has chosen to join us at this time."

In addition to St. Dennis' appointment, Novellus has promoted Bob Wagner to the newly created position of President of the North America and Europe region. Wagner most recently served as the company's vice president of sales for the Asia region.

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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