# NOVELLUS ANNOUNCES CHANGE IN EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

SAN JOSE, Calif., September 13, 2005- Novellus Systems, Inc. (Nasdaq NM: NVLS), the productivity and technology leader in advanced deposition, surface preparation and chemical mechanical planarization processes for the global semiconductor industry, today announced that Tom St. Dennis, executive vice president of sales, service and marketing has resigned to pursue other interests. St. Dennis' responsibilities will be assumed on an interim basis by Novellus' chairman of the board and CEO, Richard S. Hill.

"We wish Tom all the best with his new endeavors and thank him for his service to Novellus," said Hill. "In this tough environment, we remain committed as always to delivering shareholder value and exceeding our customers' expectations."

**"Safe Harbor" Statement Under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995:**

The statement regarding Novellus' ability to deliver shareholder value and exceed customer expectations, as well as other matters discussed in this news release that are not purely historical data, are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated by the forward-looking statements. Such risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, the impact of Novellus' inability to successfully retain key personnel and challenges in engaging and transitioning to new sales, service and marketing personnel, as well as other risks indicated in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). We assume no obligation to update this information. For more details, please refer to our SEC filings, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004, our Quarterly Reports on Forms 10-Q and 10-Q/A for the quarters ended July 2, 2005 and April 2, 2005, and our Current Reports on Form 8-K.

**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, Italy, 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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