NOVELLUS ADDS NEW EXECUTIVE POSITION IN ASIA TO SERVE GROWING MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

SAN JOSE, Calif., October 10, 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 the creation of a new executive position focused on Asia. Dr. Ming Xi, 39, will serve as chief technology officer for Novellus Asia, based out of Novellus' offices in Shanghai, China.

In her new position, Dr. Xi will report to Dr. Fusen Chen, Novellus' executive vice president and chief technology officer. Her primary responsibility will be to develop the technology strategy and direction for the company in Asia, as well as to drive solutions to address Novellus' customers' technical challenges across all product lines in the region. In addition, Dr. Xi will work closely with the regional offices to develop technical and service resources, and to strengthen the company's relationships with local universities. Dr. Xi received her Ph.D. in chemistry from Columbia University and has a broad technology background spanning 11 years in both dielectric and metal deposition in semiconductor fabrication technology

"Given the growing importance of our Asian markets, we felt the need for a leader with a diverse set of skills like Ming, who will focus on strengthening Novellus' technical expertise within the region," said Dr. Chen. "With her deep understanding of technology and business in both Asia and the U.S., Ming is an ideal choice for this new position."

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

This press release contains 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, including the statements regarding Novellus and Dr. Xi's objectives and ability to develop an Asia technology strategy and direction, drive solutions to customers' technical challenges, develop technical and service resources, strengthen local relationships and strengthen technical expertise within the region, as well as other matters discussed in this news release that are not purely historical data. 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, difficulties in managing and expanding operations in foreign markets, challenges in providing technical resources and support to customers outside of the United States, and regional economic and political instability, 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 and amendments thereto, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004, our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and for the quarters ended July 2, 2005 and April 2, 2005, 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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