NOVELLUS ANNOUNCES CHANGE IN EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

SAN JOSE, Calif., December 17, 2007-Novellus Systems, Inc. (NASDAQ: NVLS) today announced that William H. Kurtz intends to resign as the Company's Chief Financial Officer following the filing of the Company's 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007. The Company anticipates filing the 10-K on or about February 29, 2008. Mr. Kurtz intends to join a private venture-backed company on March 1, 2008. "We thank Bill for his leadership of the Finance organization over the last two years and wish him well in his new endeavor", said Richard S. Hill Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.

Novellus also announced the appointment of Jeffrey C. Benzing to the position of Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer. Mr. Benzing will add the responsibilities of Mr. Kurtz' organizations to his current responsibilities effective March 1, 2008. Mr. Benzing and Mr. Kurtz will work together in the interim to ensure a smooth transition. " In Jeff's new role he will help continue to drive cost efficiences and process within our administrative activities as well as R&D functions. Jeff is a well respected leader within Novellus," said Richard S. Hill, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Novellus Systems, Inc.

About Novellus:

Novellus Systems, Inc. (NASDAQ: NVLS) is a leading provider of advanced process equipment for the global semiconductor industry. The Company's products deliver value to customers by providing innovative technology backed by trusted productivity. An S&P 500 company, Novellus is headquartered in San Jose, CA with subsidiary offices across the globe. For more information please visit www.novellus.com.

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