NOVELLUS SYSTEMS ANNOUNCES ONE MILLION DOLLAR DONATION IN RELIEF AID FOR VICTIMS OF JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

San Jose, California - March 14, 2011 -Novellus Systems (NASDAQ: NVLS) announced today that the company is committing $1 million in relief aid to the victims and families of Friday's earthquake and tsunami in Sendai, Japan. Japan has long been an economic partner of the United States and a major contributor to the expansion of the worldwide semiconductor industry over the last 30 years.

"Without Japan, the semiconductor industry could not have achieved the technological breakthroughs that have improved the quality of life for so many throughout the world," said Richard S. Hill, chairman and chief executive officer of Novellus Systems. "Furthermore, the success Novellus Systems enjoys today is directly related to the support Japanese companies have given Novellus over the last 20 years. There is no way we can turn a blind eye to such massive devastation. While money will never replace the souls lost in this disaster, it is our hope this donation can help the people of Japan know that they are not alone in their time of need. Our hearts and prayers go out to all the people of Japan for their catastrophic loss."

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, Calif. with subsidiary offices across the globe. For more information, please visit www.novellus.com.

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