



Press Release

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Newport Corporation Invests in NEXX Systems

Irvine, California, USA – Newport Corporation (NASDAQ: NEWP) announced today that the company has invested \$3.5 million to acquire 19.9% of NEXX Systems, Inc., a privately owned developer and manufacturer of flip chip processing equipment for back-end semiconductor manufacturing, headquartered in Wilmington, MA.

Newport acquired a combination of common and preferred stock in the transaction as well as receiving other rights, including one seat on the company's board of directors. As part of the transaction, Newport will become the preferred provider to NEXX of certain components and subsystems, such as wafer handling robots and load ports. Newport and NEXX will also engage in collaborative development, integration, and marketing of their flip chip processing solutions.

Robert G. Deuster, president and chief executive officer of Newport Corporation, said, "NEXX provides very innovative and cost-effective platforms focused on several of the process steps in flip chip packaging, including wafer metallization, electroplating, photoresist deposition and stripping, and related technologies. NEXX is an excellent

complementary fit with Micro Robotics Systems, Inc. (MRSI), which we acquired in February of 2002. MRSI is a leading provider of high-precision, fully automated die attach, bonding, and underfill systems for flip chip and wafer level semiconductor packaging applications. NEXX complements Newport's strong product offering for these applications, which are among the fastest growing areas of semiconductor manufacturing. This growth results from the very strong adoption rates of handheld devices such as wireless PDAs, laptops, and cellular phones, which increasingly incorporate system-on-a-chip package designs, and chip scale packaging methods to enable reductions in device sizes and improvements in device performance. This investment represents further execution of our strategy to provide our current and future customers with high-performance, cost-effective solutions for the critical steps in the flip chip and wafer level semiconductor packaging processes," added Deuster.

NEXX chairman and chief executive officer Richard Post added, "We are very pleased to partner with Newport and are confident this relationship will further our goal of becoming the leading process equipment company for flip chip and advanced packaging technology.

"NEXX has established itself as a key player in wafer level packaging. We actively participate in two industry consortia. We are an industry affiliate at IMEC (www.IMEC.be), where our Nimbus tool processes advanced substrates for system level packaging, including passive components. With SECAP (www.SECAP.org), our Nimbus 300 mm tool has been installed as part of Unitive Semiconductor's 300 mm bump line in Taiwan. We have also established a strong position with key accounts (including Unitive, National Semiconductor, and Chipbond), now processing over 80,000 wafer starts per month on our Nimbus tool family. Our merger with All-Wet Technologies brings in additional key technology and management talent, expanding our ability to meet customers' requirements in wafer level processing," concluded Post.

NEXX Systems designs, develops, and manufactures technologically advanced solutions for the semiconductor advanced packaging, telecommunications, and optoelectronics

markets. NEXX Systems' products provide established platforms specifically focused on flip chip and advanced packaging, including wafer metallization, CVD, and etch technologies. Additional information can be found at: www.nexxsystems.com.

Newport Corporation is a leading global supplier of advanced technology products and systems to the semiconductor, communications, electronics and research markets. The company provides components and integrated subsystems to manufacturers of semiconductor processing equipment, advanced automated assembly and test systems to manufacturers of communications and electronics devices, and a broad array of high-precision components and instruments to commercial, academic and government customers worldwide. Newport's innovative solutions leverage its expertise in precision robotics and automation, sub-micron positioning systems, vibration isolation and optical subsystems to enhance the capabilities and productivity of its customers' manufacturing, engineering and research applications. Newport is part of the Standard & Poor's Midcap 400 Index and the Russell 2000 Index. For more information, visit www.newport.com.

Certain statements in this news release are forward-looking statements that involve a number of risks and uncertainties. As discussed in Newport's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002, assumptions relating to the foregoing involve judgments with respect to various matters, all of which are difficult or impossible to predict accurately and many of which are beyond the control of Newport. Although Newport believes that the assumptions underlying the forward-looking statements are reasonable, any of the assumptions could prove inaccurate and, therefore, there can be no assurance that the results contemplated in forward-looking statements will be realized. In light of the significant uncertainties inherent in the forward-looking information included herein, the inclusion of such information should not be regarded as a representation by Newport or any other person that Newport's objectives or plans will be achieved. Newport undertakes no obligation to revise the forward-looking statements contained herein to reflect such events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

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