

News Release

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SOKKIA, NOVATEL PARTNERSHIP LEADS INDUSTRY

TOKYO, Japan and CALGARY, Canada, June 28, 1999 -- In a move that significantly changes the shape of the industry, Sokkia Co., Ltd., the leading provider of optical instruments, and NovAtel Inc., innovator of global positioning system (GPS) technology, announced today their intention to form a new jointly-owned subsidiary company. The two will immediately bring together their world-class engineering with an unparalleled distribution system to provide the global market with advanced measurement solutions for the fields of surveying, mapping, Geographical Information Systems (GIS), construction and machine control.

This endeavor—built on a legacy of success for both companies—combines core competencies and complimentary skills to bring a diversified power to the forefront of the industry. Both Sokkia Co., Ltd. President Genjiro Hirano and NovAtel Inc. President and CEO Doug Reid see this partnership as an opportunity to broaden product lines, to deepen already-established global distribution channels and to lead the industry in innovation.

The combined group is formulating a vision for new products to be unveiled shortly after the formation of the new company.

Hirano said this new effort emphasizes Sokkia's long-term commitment to providing comprehensive solutions for its global markets.

“We believe that we are creating a winning environment, not only for our respective companies, but also for our distributors and ultimately our customers,” Hirano said. “Our industry is filled with supplier agreements, but this new endeavor raises the standard in product innovation to meet the needs of our customers.”

“We are building a synergy by coordinating the talents and business efforts of NovAtel and Sokkia that will be used to create a new generation of surveying and mapping products,” Reid said. “We embrace this new relationship and look forward to exploring new market niches.”

This arrangement is subject to negotiation of a definitive agreement and approval by the boards of directors of both companies.

About Sokkia Co., Ltd.

Sokkia (NIKKEI:SOKKIA) continues to be the world's leading provider of precise measurement solutions for the surveying, mapping, industrial measurement and construction industries as it has for nearly 80 years. Headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, Sokkia has international research and development offices and manufacturing facilities. With a worldwide sales and support system that has long been the envy of the industry, Sokkia continues to offer personalized customer service.

Around the world, Sokkia products are known for their durability, quality and dependability, and all Sokkia products are backed with the industry's most comprehensive service and support capabilities—

including technical support, product training courses and a factory-trained repair staff. Sokkia's diverse product line ranges from high-tech GPS systems, optical instruments, laser products and application solutions—such as data collection and desktop software tools—to the everyday basics, such as tripods, hand tools and supplies.

About NovAtel Inc.

Headquartered in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, NovAtel Inc. (NASDAQ:NGPS) designs, markets and supports a broad range of products which determine precise geographic locations using GPS. The company's products are used principally for applications where users require higher performance, accuracy and reliability. This includes applications in markets such as surveying, GIS, agriculture, aviation, marine, mining and machine control. NovAtel continues to strengthen its leadership in the industry by addressing market needs and by maintaining responsive and flexible customer support.

NovAtel's majority owner, Canadian Marconi, is a world leader in the design, manufacture, sales and support of high-technology electronic products for the aerospace and communications markets.

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