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**SYNOVA TEAMS WITH KATAOKA CORPORATION TO LAUNCH
MICROMACHINING CENTER (MMC) IN JAPAN**

***Company Continues to Fuel Technology Adoption through Ongoing Development of Technical
Support Centers***

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, August, 2006—Synova, the world pioneer and leader in water jet-guided laser technology, today announced it has partnered with Kataoka Corporation, a renowned Japanese laser manufacturer, to open a micromachining center (MMC) in Kyoto, Japan. Another step forward in Synova's worldwide expansion strategy, the Synova-Kataoka MMC bolsters the company's commitment to supporting its customer base in Japan and continues to fuel industry adoption of its Laser MicroJet® technology. Following on the heels of the Silicon Valley-based MMC announced in July 2006, the Synova-Kataoka facility is slated to come online in December.

"The partnership with Kataoka Corp. is a pivotal move for Synova in Japan," said Synova Chief Executive Officer Bernold Richerzhagen. "Kataoka's strong presence, combined with Synova's sales and support center, which opened in Japan in April last year, will enable us to further establish our foothold in a region that's home to some of the world's largest electronics manufacturers. Moreover, it will allow us to serve the needs of our Japanese customers even more quickly and efficiently."

The Kyoto-based MMC fortifies Synova's commitment to building a global network of MMCs. Featuring Synova's most versatile machine, the LCS 300, which integrates Kataoka's latest diode-pumped solid state Laser, the Synova-Kataoka MMC will serve both as a technical center for sample testing and application development, as well as a local customer support center. Overseeing operations at the new MMC will be Dr. Yasushi Kozuki, business development manager, who has worked more than 10 years in application solutions and management in both the front- and back-end markets for a leading European semiconductor company. The Synova-Kataoka MMC will be located at:

140 Tsukiyama-cho Kuze, Minami-ku

Kyoto, 601-8203 Japan

Tel: +81-75 933 1101

Fax: +81-75 931 1608

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Synova's proprietary Laser MicroJet technology replaces traditional cutting technologies, such as conventional lasers and diamond blade saws, which are unable to precisely cut inkjet print head MEMS, hard disk drives (HDDs) and organic light-emitting diodes (OLEDs) without damaging the materials due to their thermo-mechanical stress sensitivity. Guided through a controlled, low-pressure water jet between 25 and 200 microns in diameter, the laser acts as an optical wave-guide that can machine various materials, including the dicing of very thin wafers, grooving of photovoltaic silicon-solar cells and cutting of super-hard materials such as cubic boron nitride (CBN).

About Synova

Founded in 1997, Synova is a leading supplier of state-of-the-art laser solutions for the semiconductor, electronics, flat panel display (FPD) and industrial micro-machining industries, among others. As the inventor of laser dicing technology, Synova—through its proprietary Laser MicroJet[®] (water jet-guided laser) technology—is fast emerging as the ideal provider for addressing the exacting manufacturing specifications and low cost-of-ownership (CoO) requirements associated with the volume production of today's advanced electronic devices. Headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland, Synova is a privately held company with subsidiaries located in Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan and the United States. Additional information about the company is available on the Internet at: www.synova.ch

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Laser MicroJet is a registered trademark of Synova.