

Contacts:

Delphine Perrottet
Synova SA
Tel: +41-21-6943500
Fax: +41-21-6943501
Email: perrottet@synova.ch

Karen Do
MCA, Inc.
Tel: +1-650-968-8900
Fax: +1-650-968-8990
Email: kdo@mcapr.com

**SYNOVA BROADENS U.S. PRESENCE WITH THE OPENING OF
BOSTON MICROMACHINING CENTER (MMC)**

Boston MMC Targets the Hub of the U.S. Medical and Electronics Markets

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Sept. 18, 2006—Synova, the world pioneer and patent-holder in water jet-guided laser technology, today announced that it will open a second U.S.-based micromachining center (MMC) in Boston. Aimed at meeting the high-precision needs of the region's medical, electronics and tooling markets, the Boston MMC is set to open in January 2007, in tandem with the recently announced Silicon Valley-based MMC, strategically addressing the needs of both the West and East Coast hubs of technology innovation. As with all the company's planned MMCs, the Boston MMC is chartered with expanding customer support and adoption of Synova's Laser MicroJet[®] technology.

"Further expansion in the U.S. reinforces our strategy to better support all of our served markets worldwide," said Synova Chief Executive Officer Bernold Richerzhagen. "Proximity to our customers is our top priority, and as we continue to promote the adoption of Laser MicroJet in the medical, electronics and tooling markets, Boston represents an ideal locale to address our U.S. customers' needs quickly and efficiently."

To date, Synova has more than 50 full-production machines at customer sites worldwide, of which 12 tools are operating in the U.S. In the U.S. alone, the company continues to see growth potential and customer interest in the Laser MicroJet for semiconductor applications such as high-power LED wafer dicing, medical applications like the cutting of metal coronary stents and surgical blades, as well as alternative energy applications such as the cutting and grooving of photovoltaic silicon or germanium solar cells. Moreover, Synova is gaining traction in the tooling industry for the cutting of hard materials such as cubic boron nitride (CBN), polycrystalline diamond (PCD), polycrystalline CBN (PCBN) and silicon nitride (SiN).

The Boston MMC will serve as a competence center for demonstration, sample testing and application development to serve these markets, and will feature its LCS 300. Its most versatile tool, the LCS 300 is used for medical applications as well as the electronics market to cut, drill and groove metal masks, including stencils for PCB, wafer bump stencils and screens for flat panel displays (shadow or evaporation masks). Synova's proprietary Laser MicroJet technology supplants conventional lasers and other cutting technologies without damaging the thermo-mechanically sensitive materials.

Synova's global expansion through its MMCs is funded by a recent financing totaling CHF 10 million (USD 8.1 million) from Swiss banks. The Boston MMC announcement follows on the heels of the Silicon Valley-based MMC announcement in July 2006.