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NovAtel Names Jim Close as Chairman of the Board

(Calgary, Alta, Canada, January 7, 1999) – The Board of Directors of NovAtel Inc. (NASDAQ:NGPSF) announces the appointment of Mr. W. James (Jim) Close as Chairman of the Board. Mr. Close has been a member of NovAtel's Board of Directors since September 1998.

"With more than 20 years' experience in the industry, Jim will remain a powerful asset to NovAtel as we continue to move forward," says Doug Reid, the corporation's President and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Close replaces William I.M. Turner, Jr., who has retired as NovAtel's Director and Chairman as of December 31, 1998. In addition, Mr. Turner is also retiring from his position as Chairman of the Board of Canadian Marconi Company.

Mr. Close has been President and Chief Executive Officer of Canadian Marconi Company (CMC) since July 1, 1998. Prior to CMC, Mr. Close held various executive positions in the industry including President of AlliedSignal Aerospace Canada Inc. Previously, he spent eight years with AlliedSignal in the U.S. in a variety of operations and general management roles. His prior career spanned 19 years in the U.S. with the Avco/Lycoming and Colt Industries organizations.

NovAtel Inc. designs, markets and supports a broad range of products that determine precise geographic locations using the Global Positioning System ("GPS"). NovAtel's GPS products are used principally for applications in high-end markets such as surveying, geographic information systems, aviation, marine, mining and machine control and agriculture.

Certain statements in this press release constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of the Company, or developments in the Company's industry, to differ materially from the anticipated results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Such factors include, but are not limited to, certification and market acceptance of the Company's new products, impact and timing of large orders, pricing pressures in the market and other competitive factors and maintaining technological leadership, together with the other risks and uncertainties described in public filings.