



Photronics Appoints Dr. Peter S. Kirlin Senior Vice President - U.S. & Europe

BROOKFIELD, Connecticut August 21, 2008 -- Photronics, Inc. (Nasdaq:PLAB), a worldwide leader in supplying innovative photomask-based imaging solutions for the global electronics and display industries, announced today that Peter S. Kirlin, Ph.D. has been named Senior Vice President - U.S. & Europe. In this newly created position, Kirlin has assumed responsibility for the mainstream mask business in both the U.S. and Europe and will report directly to Constantine ("Deno") Macricostas, the Company's Chairman and interim Chief Executive Officer. Additionally, he will support both Corporate Business Development and Strategic Planning.

Prior to joining Photronics, Dr. Kirlin, a 24-year veteran of the photomask and semiconductor industries, has held several senior leadership positions of increasing responsibilities: Vice President of Business Development at Entegris, a developer, manufacturer and supplier of liquid and gas delivery systems, components and consumables used in the semiconductor manufacturing process; Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of DuPont Photomasks; and Group Vice President of ATMI, a leading supplier of ultra-high purity materials and services used in the manufacture of semiconductors. Dr. Kirlin recently finished a term as Executive Chairman of the privately-held firm Akrion, Inc., a world-class provider of surface preparation solutions to the semiconductor and electronics industries.

"Without a doubt, Peter is a seasoned professional whose drive and vigor, paired with his previous leadership roles and expertise in the mask industry, makes him a welcome addition to our executive team," enthused Deno Macricostas. "The businesses Peter has managed have repeatedly demonstrated rapid growth which is an excellent fit with our strategic priorities moving forward."

"I am delighted to join Photronics, the recognized and longstanding photomask industry service leader," added Kirlin. "Exceeding customer expectations to drive revenue growth, while relentlessly reducing cost, have always been, and will continue to be, our top business priorities moving forward."

Dr. Kirlin earned his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware; and his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Pennsylvania State University in University Park, Pennsylvania.

Photronics is a leading worldwide manufacturer of photomasks. Photomasks are high precision quartz plates that contain microscopic images of electronic circuits. A key element in the manufacture of semiconductors and flat panel displays, photomasks are used to transfer circuit patterns onto semiconductor wafers and flat panel substrates during the fabrication of integrated circuits, a variety of flat panel displays and, to a lesser extent, other types of electrical and optical components. They are produced in accordance with product designs provided by customers at strategically located manufacturing facilities in Asia, Europe, and North America. Additional information on the Company can be accessed at www.photronics.com.

The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 provides a "safe harbor" for forward-looking statements made by or on behalf of Photronics, Inc. and its subsidiaries (the Company). The forward-looking statements contained in this press release and other parts of Photronics' web site involve risks and uncertainties that may affect the Company's operations, markets, products, services, prices, and other factors as discussed in filings with the U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, economic, competitive, legal, governmental, and technological factors. Accordingly, there is no assurance that the Company's expectations will be realized. The Company assumes no obligation to provide revisions to any forward-looking statements.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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