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BROOKFIELD, Connecticut December 19, 2004 -- Photronics, Inc. (Nasdaq:PLAB), a worldwide leader in supplying innovative photomask-based imaging solutions for the global electronics and display industries, announced today that Scott J. Gish (45) will join the Company in the newly created position of Vice President-Global Sales & Business Development effective December 30, 2005. A 25 year veteran of the semiconductor and data storage industries, Mr. Gish will have responsibility for global sales strategy, customer relationship management and business development. He will report directly to Michael J. Luttati, the Company's Chief Executive Officer.

"Scott is a seasoned industry executive who has proven himself to be an excellent advocate for customers in every organization in which he has served," commented Mr. Luttati. "He will be playing a critical role in Photronics' ability to realize its longer term goals for increasing customer satisfaction and improving the overall quality of revenue growth. To that end, I am confident that his strategic vision, leadership and tactical excellence will elevate the performance and efficiency of our global sales organization."

Mr. Gish joins Photronics from Veeco Instruments, where he served as Vice President of Sales since 2003. During his tenure, he successfully implemented strategic account management methodologies that enabled the company to achieve record sales levels in the data storage industry. Prior to Veeco, Mr. Gish had been promoted through a variety of sales and product marketing positions of increasing responsibility within the semiconductor industry at Axcelis Technologies and within Schlumberger's automatic test equipment division.

"Advances in lithography technology and the design methodologies for high performance electronics have necessitated that successful photomask companies quickly evolve from being suppliers of a commodity service into a strategic technology partner helping to significantly improve both yield and the returns on the investment necessary to build and equip today's state-of-the-art wafer fabs," noted Mr. Gish. "Photronics, through its investments in advanced technology and willingness to embrace new applications, such as flat panel displays and imprint, is a proven innovator that consistently delivers value added solutions to its customers. This, together with the intense service component of being a global mask industry leader, creates an exciting environment that I really look forward to being a part of."

Mr. Gish earned his Masters of Business Administration degree from St. Edwards University in Austin, Texas and his Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from The Ohio Institute of Technology in Columbus, Ohio.

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.