

NEWS RELEASE



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For immediate release

CVI MELLES GRIOT CONTINUES GROWTH STRATEGY WITH NEW ACQUISITION Addition of Coherent Imaging Optics Brings Infrared Optical Manufacturing Capabilities to Albuquerque, New Mexico-Based Supplier of Photonic Products

CVI Melles Griot announced today the acquisition of Coherent Imaging Optics Ltd. ("CIOL"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Coherent, Inc. CIOL has been a valued supplier of critical infrared optical components for advanced thermal imaging and other electro-optic systems for over 20 years.

In announcing the consummation of the deal with CIOL, Stuart Schoenmann, Chief Executive Officer of CVI Melles Griot stated, "This acquisition increases our infrared optics manufacturing capacity, brings us unique coating technologies, and further strengthens our European manufacturing presence.

CVI Melles Griot's acquisition strategy focuses on expanding its product line, increasing capabilities, and addressing growing market opportunities. The CIOL acquisition enables CVI Melles Griot to meet customer demand with local manufacturing for defense contracts and provides new capabilities to manufacture infrared imaging optics and assemblies.

"We are excited to be joining the CVI Melles Griot family," says Robin Henderson, Managing Director for Coherent Imaging Optics Ltd. "We will be focused on developing our site as CVI Melles Griot's Center of Excellence for infrared imaging optics fabrication and coatings, strengthening the business, and better serving our customers. We look forward to leveraging our worldwide manufacturing technologies and capabilities to improve time-to-market of products, to develop best in class processes, and to expand our manufacturing options for customers to meet import/export regulations."

Robin Henderson will be leading the new CVI Melles Griot division through the integration and will report directly to CVI Melles Griot CEO Stuart Schoenmann.

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About CVI Melles Griot Serving semiconductor, biotech, industrial, commercial, aerospace and research industries, CVI Melles Griot is a leading global supplier of photonics products including optical components and systems, lasers, motion-control systems, laser measurement instrumentation and opto-mechanical hardware. Headquartered in Albuquerque, New Mexico, CVI Melles Griot operates manufacturing facilities in New Mexico, California, Colorado, New York, the British Isles, Japan, and South Korea with sales representatives and distributors located worldwide. CVI has been a portfolio company of Norwest Equity Partners, a leading private equity firm, since May 2003.

About Coherent Founded in 1966, Coherent, Inc. is a Standard & Poor's SmallCap 600 company and a world leader in providing photonics based solutions to the commercial and scientific research markets. Please direct any questions to Leen Simonet, Chief Financial Officer at 408-764-4161. For more information about Coherent, visit the Company's Web site at <http://www.coherent.com/> for product and financial updates.