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**MOLECULAR IMPRINTS, INC. SECURES CARL ZEISS SMT AG AND HAKUTO AS
INVESTORS AND COLLABORATORS**

AUSTIN, TX, December 2, 2003 – Molecular Imprints, Inc. (MII), the leading manufacturer of step and flash imprint lithography (S-FIL*), has reached investment and collaboration agreements with both Carl Zeiss SMT AG, a German based global supplier to the semiconductor industry, and Hakuto Co., Ltd, a Tokyo based international distributor and manufacturer of electronic components, manufacturing machinery, optical products and industrial chemicals. Zeiss and Hakuto have agreed to make equity investments in MII and have also obtained the exclusive rights to distribute MII's Imprio* imprint lithography equipment in Europe and Japan. The Zeiss and Hakuto investments are part of MII's Series B \$30 million funding round.

“Zeiss and Hakuto have extensive experience in serving the nano-manufacturing and semiconductor markets,” says Dr. Norman Schumaker, President and CEO of MII. “Zeiss and Hakuto's success and strength in the semiconductor industry and their focus on nanotechnology make them ideal strategic partners. Their investments will enable Molecular Imprints to expand operations to satisfy growing customer demand, especially in Europe and Japan.”

“The Step and Flash Imprint Lithography developed by MII has quite extensive fields of application not only in semiconductor industries, but also in nano-technologies such as MEMS and also in manufacturing of bio-chips,” says Mr. Hirai, President of Hakuto. “We are very glad to become a business partner of MII and to distribute their epoch-making Imprint Lithography Systems in Japan.” Mr. Hirai also added, “Our new partnership with MII will no doubt become a cornerstone of our business, which, we believe, will firmly support Hakuto's growth in the future.”

Dr. Herman Gerlinger, President and CEO of Carl Zeiss SMT AG, is convinced: “The technology of Molecular Imprints matches our technology portfolio which is dedicated to leading edge lithography and nano-technologies. There are several emerging markets inside and outside the semiconductor and related industries, which may find step and flash imprint lithography to be the ideal solution for their needs. In addition to the supply of optics for high throughput lithography tools for volume production, which is and will remain our core business, there is a growing demand for cost-effective solutions for laboratory and research work as well as for low-volume production. MII addresses all of these markets.”

About Molecular Imprints Inc.

Founded in 2001, Molecular Imprints, Inc. (MII) develops and manufactures nano-lithography systems. The unique Step and Flash Imprint Lithography technology is a simple step and repeat, room temperature, low pressure, nano-imprint process that has demonstrated sub-20 nanometer resolution. MII provides enabling lithography systems and technology for manufacturing applications in the areas of: nano-devices, micro structures, advanced packaging, bio-devices, optical components and semiconducting devices. For more information, visit: www.molecularimprints.com.

About Carl Zeiss SMT AG

With a wide-ranging product portfolio, Carl Zeiss SMT AG meets the requirements of the key processes involved in microchip production, making it one of the leading direct and indirect suppliers to the semiconductor industry. As an innovation leader in the field of Lithography Optics and



optical and electron beam-based inspection and measuring systems, SMT AG generates important momentum for further development in the chip industry. Together with its subsidiaries at locations in Germany, UK, USA, France and Israel, the international group of companies employs a total workforce of over 1,800 people. The stock corporation emerged from the Semiconductor Technology business group of Carl Zeiss as a 100% subsidiary on October 1, 2001. In the 2002/2003 fiscal year, the former business group achieved a sales figure of EUR 447 million. For more information visit www.smt.zeiss.com

Carl Zeiss is a leading international group of companies operating worldwide in the fields of optical and opto-electronic products. The company is headquartered in Oberkochen, Germany. The Carl Zeiss Group offers products and services for the three strategic growth areas of biosciences and healthcare, consumer goods and systems solutions for industrial markets. The Group is structured as six business units, which operate fully responsible within the Group and generally rank first or second in their respective markets. The company is directly represented in more than 30 countries and operates production facilities in Europe, North America, Mexico and Asia. In the fiscal year 2002/2003 revenue generated by the global workforce of approximately 14,150 employees amounted to 2.029 billion euros. Further information is available at www.zeiss.com.

About Hakuto Co, Ltd.

Hakuto Co, Ltd. is a publically held company with subsidiaries all over Japan, and is a trading and manufacturing company, which imports and exports electric/electronic equipment and parts including semiconductor devices, and also manufactures various industrial chemicals used for water treatment and other applications. For more information, visit Hakuto website at www.Hakuto.com.

*S-FIL and Imprio are trademarks of Molecular Imprints, Inc.

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