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## **PRICE INCREASE ANNOUNCED BY MRC DIVISION OF PRAXAIR SURFACE TECHNOLOGIES, INC.**

ORANGEBURG, NY – February 12, 2001 – The Materials Research Division of Praxair Surface Technologies, Inc., announced today it is immediately increasing prices for sputtering targets and evaporation materials by 5 % to 13 % depending on materials and configuration.

“This is the first such increase in five years,” according to Phil Roberts, global director of marketing. “It is required to offset increased costs for labor, raw materials and energy.

“We have also alerted customers for our tantalum products that raw material prices had tripled in 2000 due to a worldwide shortage,” Roberts continued. “As a consequence, these products are now subject to special short-term pricing adjustments.”

The MRC division of Praxair Surface Technologies, Inc. makes sputtering targets and evaporative materials for use in advanced technology applications such as semiconductor devices and inkjet printer heads. Headquartered in Orangeburg, New York, the division operates sales offices globally and manufacturing sites in the United States, France, and Korea. Capacity expansions for all manufacturing sites are currently underway to meet increased customer demand for semiconductor products and for the transition to 300-mm wafer fabs.

Praxair Surface Technologies, Inc., is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Praxair, Inc. and is a leading provider of surface enhancing materials and processes to customers in industries such as aerospace, computer, electronic, optical, printing, plastics, primary metals, and textiles industries worldwide. Sales in 2000 were US\$ 579 million.

Praxair, Inc. (NYSE: PX) is the largest industrial gases company in North and South America, and one of the largest worldwide, with 2000 sales of US\$5 billion. The company produces, sells and distributes atmospheric and process gases, and high-performance surface coatings. Praxair products, services and technology bring productivity and environmental benefits to a wide variety of industries, including aerospace, food and beverage, healthcare, semiconductor materials, steel, chemicals and refining, metal fabrication, water treatment, glass and others. For more information about MRC products visit **praxairMRC.com** on the Internet.

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