



## **NCI TO EXPAND WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART FRAME PLANT IN TENNESSEE NEW FACILITY DESIGNED TO LEAD METAL CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN EFFICIENCY, QUALITY AND SAFETY**

**HOUSTON --(Feb. 24, 2003) --** NCI Building Systems, Inc. (NYSE:NCS) today announced that it has decided to build a new plant in Lexington, Tenn. for manufacturing frames for metal buildings. The frames manufactured by the new facility will be combined with products from other NCI manufacturing facilities and marketed as complete metal building systems. The facility, which is expected to open in the third quarter of 2003, is being built on 25 acres at an estimated cost of approximately \$8 million.

“This new facility is noteworthy for NCI in a number of ways,” said Johnie Schulte, President and Chief Executive Officer. “The decision to make this investment is tangible evidence of the confidence we have in the long-term growth prospects for the metal construction industry. In addition, we plan to close an existing plant that has become impractical to modernize and expand. We expect to realize a gain from the sale of the property due to the growth that has occurred in the geographic area where this older plant is located. The current economic period provides an outstanding opportunity for NCI to capitalize on our strong financial position to execute this significant expansion. The location of the Lexington facility was chosen to position us close to our principal suppliers as well as several of our manufacturing facilities. The proximity to key suppliers will allow the new plant to have very low inbound freight rates. The centralized location will also aid us in being competitive in shipping our frames virtually throughout the nation.”

Schulte added, “The unique layout for the new plant has been specifically designed to increase productivity and promote employee safety. We will be utilizing the most modern production equipment and control systems, which will enable NCI to lower its overall cost structure on building frames while achieving superior quality. We expect the Lexington facility to set new industry standards in terms of efficiency, quality, and employee safety. We are pleased with the cooperation that we have received from the City of Lexington, Henderson County and the State of Tennessee in the planning for this state-of-the-art facility that will employ approximately 200 individuals.

“The expansion in capacity represented by the Lexington plant fits within our strategic objective of continuing to increase NCI’s market share. We will be using systems compatible with our other facilities, and this advantage should help us in starting up the new plant and in reaching planned efficiency quickly. Much of the machinery will be purchased new in order to gain the maximum advantage from technological improvements that also have been proven at other NCI frame manufacturing plants.”

NCI Building Systems, Inc. is one of North America's largest integrated manufacturers of metal products for the non-residential building industry. The Company operates manufacturing and distribution facilities located in 16 states and Mexico.

Some statements contained in this release are “forward-looking” statements, as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Actual performance of the Company may differ from that projected in such statements as a result of factors such as industry cyclicality and seasonality, adverse weather conditions, fluctuations in customer demand and order patterns, raw material pricing, competitive activity and pricing pressure and general economic conditions affecting the construction industry. Investors should refer to statements regularly filed by the Company in its annual report to the Securities and Exchange Commission on Form 10-K, its Quarterly Reports to the SEC on Form 10-Q and its current reports to the SEC on Form 8-K and other filings with the SEC for a discussion of factors which could affect the Company's operations and forward-looking statements made in this communication. The Company expressly disclaims any obligation to release publicly any updates or revisions to these forward-looking statements to reflect any changes in expectations.