



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Novadent Is Newest Investment from Birch Hill Equity Partners

(Toronto, February 27, 2006) Birch Hill Equity Partners Inc. announces that it has made an investment in Novadent Inc. This is the initial investment made through its recently closed \$850 million fund, Birch Hill Equity Partners III, LP.

Novadent will make strategic investments in the dental laboratory industry. Novadent's first acquisition is Issaquah Dental Labs, which designs, fabricates and sells crowns, bridges and implants to dentists and other dental laboratories. Issaquah is a recognized industry leader in the adoption of new dental technologies and materials.

Birch Hill partner Joe Wiley said "Companies with great potential have a lot of choice when picking an investment partner. Novadent selected Birch Hill not just because of our successful track record, but also because we know that capital is only one factor in long term success. The key to unlocking value is smart, sustained business-building based on shared interests."

Birch Hill Equity Partners Inc. invests in leading Canadian middle-market businesses. Birch Hill's 23 member team has years of experience working together as an active partner with top management teams in building long term value. For more information about Birch Hill Equity Partners, please visit www.birchhillequity.com.

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