



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oregon Cutting Systems Names Vern Pearson Vice President of Manufacturing

Portland, Oregon, May 2, 2005 – “We are pleased to announce that Vern Pearson has accepted the position of Vice President of Manufacturing” stated Ken Saito, President of the Oregon Cutting Systems Group of Blount, Inc. Pearson succeeds long-time Oregon Vice President Noel Hingley, who is retiring from the company.

For the past eighteen years, Pearson served as General Manager of the company’s Brazilian operation based in Curitiba, approximately 250 miles south of Sao Paulo. “Quality and customer service are our leading objectives through the implementation of Lean Thinking practices at all of our facilities” Saito continued, “and in Brazil we’re especially proud of the performance that Pearson and his team have achieved.”

Pearson steps into his new position during a milestone period for Oregon Cutting Systems as the company is progressing on major initiatives to increase its worldwide manufacturing capacity. Regarding the challenges of his new position Pearson stated, “Oregon is the best in the world at what it does, and to stay the best in today’s global business environment, we have to have a sense of urgency about our business. The more we have that – at all of our manufacturing plants – the greater will be our quality, our customer service, our workforce stability, and our overall success.”

Oregon Cutting Systems Group: Founded in 1947, the Oregon Cutting Systems Group of Blount, Inc. is a world leader in providing high quality, original equipment and replacement parts to the outdoor power equipment industry. The replacement products, sold under the Oregon® brand include: chainsaw chain, guide bars, sharpening tools, lawnmower blades, trimmer line and heads, spark plugs, belts, and air filters. More information about Oregon Cutting Systems and the Oregon® brand of quality replacement parts can be found at www.oregonchain.com.

Blount, Inc.: Blount, Inc. is a diversified international company with three principal business segments: Outdoor Products, Lawnmower and Industrial & Power Equipment. Blount sells its products in more than 100 countries around the world. For more information about Blount, Inc., visit www.blount.com.