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THREE EXECUTIVES JOIN GATES AND COMPANY -- FURTHER EXPANDING DEPTH AND BREADTH OF CONSULTING TALENT

WILMINGTON, DE – Gates and Company is pleased to announce the addition of three new executives to its consultant team: **Michelle Faustin, Deborah Hobbs,** and **Kane Nakahara.**

Michelle Faustin is an experienced strategy consultant, marketing manager, and business financial analyst. Prior to *Gates and Company*, she performed market research, competitive intelligence, and internal consulting for CIGNA Corporation; strategic consulting in the areas of market entry and marketing strategies for Accenture; and business advisory services and mergers and acquisitions support for Ernst & Young. Ms. Faustin has worked with and for organizations ranging from start-ups to Fortune 100 companies. She helps businesses develop and implement growth strategies through the assessment of market dynamics and research. She works with clients to create financial and operational tools to measure and grow both new and existing businesses in product and services industries. Clients also benefit from her experience working with private equity and venture capital communities, helping evaluate companies for investment funding through due diligence and valuation analysis. Ms. Faustin earned a BS in Accounting from Morgan State University (Summa Cum Laude) and an MBA from Duke University. She is a Certified Public Accountant.

Deborah Hobbs is an effective and innovative strategic thinker with over 18 years of experience in the areas of manufacturing processes, market research, competitive analysis, strategic business planning, growth strategies, process improvement and quality initiatives, product development, go-to-market strategies, and channel development.

Prior to *Gates and Company*, Ms. Hobbs experience included working for DuPont in engineering and program management roles for both Hardcore DuPont Composites and Composite Aerospace Components. She also founded HobbsCo Ltd., a strategic management consulting firm. For *Gates and Company* clients, Ms. Hobbs assists with market assessment, strategy facilitation/strategic planning, marketing, product and venture launch, business development, and intellectual property issues. She helps clients research markets, develop innovative business models, and build barriers to competitive entry to achieve sustainable competitive advantage. Clients also benefit from her workplace safety experience gained through initiatives at DuPont and through HobbsCo. Ms. Hobbs earned a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Delaware and is currently pursuing an MBA with a concentration in new venture creation.

Kane Nakahara has over 20 years of experience in the areas of strategic planning and operational improvement at companies of varying sizes in electronics, medical devices, advanced materials, beverages, and industrial controls industries. Prior employers include Vertisync, Inc.; New York Consulting Partners; Toyota Motor Corp.; and Andersen Consulting. Mr. Nakahara has significant experience in evaluating new market opportunities, including assessing market segments and dynamics, competitive environment, emerging technologies, business risk, and fit with current operational capabilities. As a senior manager at a market-leading electronics firm, Mr. Nakahara oversaw major new product introductions, which included evaluating financial, marketing, engineering, and operational aspects of each project. He has led and implemented major supply chain improvement initiatives, including reconfiguring operational networks, increasing plant capacity, and reducing lead-times, resulting in significant financial and service performance improvement. Mr. Nakahara earned a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Rice University and an MBA in Finance and International Business from Columbia University.

About Gates and Company

Gates and Company is a management consulting and investment banking firm dedicated to helping companies grow. With an impressive track record of helping numerous companies reach their goals, *Gates and Company* specializes in growth strategy formulation, investment banking, market research/analysis, business plan development, product/venture launch, routes to market, and mergers and acquisitions.

Selected clients include: Antares Pharma, DuPont, DuPont Teijin Films, FMC Corporation, The Government of Japan (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry), Friama, Greene Tweed, Hercules, JADO Technologies, LG Chemical, mCom Financial Services, MedRisk, Metabo, National Biometric Security Project, New Age Blast Media, Parelec, Qualicon, Rohm and Haas, Soluziona, Ultrafine Technologies, Visionet Systems, WaveFront Research, and W.L. Gore. For more information, visit www.gatesandcompany.com.

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