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**MARY FRANCES COX NAMED VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS AT SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC NORTH AMERICAN OPERATING DIVISION**

PALATINE, Ill., April 12, 2004 – Mary Frances Cox has been appointed vice president of operations at Schneider Electric North American Operating Division, announced David D. Petratis, president and CEO.

Based in Palatine, Ill., the North American Operating Division is one of four geographic divisions of Paris-based Schneider Electric, a leading global provider of electrical distribution, control and automation products systems and services.

Cox most recently served as vice president of manufacturing operations at Schneider Electric, which she joined in 2002 as director of manufacturing strategy. In her new post, Cox's expanded responsibilities will include advanced manufacturing, manufacturing operations, purchasing, logistics and resale business, as well as safety, health and environment.

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## MARY FRANCES COX TO LEAD MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS

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“Mary Frances Cox possesses the exceptional ability needed to orchestrate the complex relationships that exist today between supply chain management, logistics and world class manufacturing strategies,” said Petratis. “She’ll focus on aligning these and other functions to drive efficiencies and enhance value to customers. We’re especially pleased that she’ll be leading the new Engineered To Order Process, which is central to our manufacturing strategy and commitment to offer customized solutions.”

Prior to joining Schneider Electric, Cox spent six years at Siemens where she advanced to manager of the global center of competence after serving as general manager of busway and operations manager of panelboards and switchboards. Prior to Siemens, Cox spent 16 years at General Electric where she was promoted to worldwide sourcing manager after serving as president and general manager of Midwest Electric.

Cox is a native of Binghamton, N.Y.. She earned a B.A. at State University of New York and an M.A. from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. She currently resides in Prairie Grove, Ill.

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Schneider Electric North American Operating Division

Headquartered in Palatine, Ill., the North American Operating Division of Schneider Electric had sales of \$2.5 billion (U.S.) in 2003. The North American Operating Division is one of four operating divisions of Schneider Electric, headquartered in Paris, France, and markets the Square D, Telemecanique and Merlin Gerin brand products to customers in the United States, Canada and Mexico. In the United States, Schneider Electric is best known by its flagship Square D brand, with Telemecanique becoming increasingly known in the industrial control and automation markets and supported by many Square D distributors. For 101 years, Square D has been a market-leading brand of electrical distribution and industrial control products, systems and services. Schneider Electric is a global electrical industry leader with 2003 sales of approximately \$9.9 billion (U.S.).