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For Immediate Release

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### **Strem Chemicals Donates \$60,000 to NEF for Robotics Lab at Nock**

Newburyport – The Newburyport Education Foundation (NEF) announced a donation of \$60,000 from Strem Chemicals, Inc. will fund a new Robotics Lab at the Nock Middle School this fall.

“This generous gift from Strem Chemicals made it possible for us to get the lab equipment and kits in place for this fall,” said John Elwell, NEF President. “The work is well underway and we expect it to be up and running by the beginning of classes.”

Through this new program at the middle school, students will integrate mathematics, science/engineering, computer engineering, and language arts as they explore the field of robotics. The robotics course will be offered to 8<sup>th</sup> graders and introduces the principles of robotics and the role in which robots play in our technologically evolving world. Students will study the principles of mechanical engineering, electronics, and computer programming as they design, build, and mobilize remote control and autonomous robots.

“This program has the potential not only to inspire eight graders to pursue studies in technical fields, but also to allow the robotics program at the high school (which uses the same design software) to advance to higher levels,” said Brad Balkus, technology teacher at Nock Middle School. “The possibility of after-school programs, the connection to engineering faculty at MIT and the possible involvement of engineering students are all additional benefits.”

Strem Chemicals, Inc. is a long-time supporter and donor to the NEF. Michael Strem, owner, is an original member of the Business Coalition (formally the Newburyport Education Business Coalition-NEBC). In addition to other support since 2005, in 2006, Strem Chemicals donated \$10,000 to the science labs at the middle school. Strem Chemicals continues to play a key role in the Business Coalition and funds Partnership Grants that maintain strong links and ongoing collaboration between our community's businesses and our schools' educators.

“We are proud to support this technology initiative by the NEF,” said Dr. Michael Strem. “By providing state-of-the-art tools and resources to our students, we feel we can truly advance education in the Newburyport Public Schools. This hand-on Robotics Lab is just the thing to get students excited about science and technology.”

#### **About Strem Chemicals, Inc.**

Strem Chemicals, Inc., established in 1964, is a privately-held company that manufactures and markets specialty chemicals of high purity. Strem's key products include catalysts-and nanomaterials. In addition they have several “clean rooms” for the production of drug intermediates and active ingredients. Its products are used for research and development and commercial scale applications, especially in the pharmaceutical, microelectronics, chemicals, and petrochemicals industries. Strem's corporate headquarters is located in Newburyport. The European headquarters and

warehouse are located in Bischheim, France. Strem also has other international distribution centers throughout the world.

**About the Newburyport Education Foundation (NEF)** The Mission of the Newburyport Education Foundation is to bring philanthropy into the Newburyport Public Schools and generate financial resources that will enhance the quality of public education throughout the school system. Formed to enhance educational opportunities for the city's public school children, the goal of the Newburyport Education Foundation is to supplement funding for programs which are already supported by public financing at a basic level, but which can be substantially improved by additional private sector financing, and to finance programs that might not receive funding from traditional sources such as the district budget or state aid.

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