Brush Wellman Announces Annual Meeting Date and a Plan to Create a New Corporate Structure

CLEVELAND - Feb. 1, 2000 - Brush Wellman Inc. (NYSE:BW) today announced that March 6, 2000 is the record date for shareholders' voting at its Annual Meeting to be held in Cleveland, Ohio on May 2, 2000.

At its regularly scheduled Board meeting today, the Company's directors approved a proposal to create a new publicly held parent for the Company's businesses. The proposal would be placed before the Company's shareholders at the Annual Meeting. Brush Wellman Inc. and other domestic and foreign investments would be wholly owned subsidiaries of the new company, Brush Engineered Materials Inc. The Company said it is still assessing the details of the final structure in light of a variety of tax and accounting considerations.

"We believe this proposed new corporate structure better reflects the way the Company is organized and operates today and will operate in the future", said Gordon Harnett, Chairman, President and CEO. "The new structure will enable each of our domestic and international businesses to capture the benefits of their individual growth opportunities unencumbered by the financial and operating risks of other regions or businesses."

Any forward-looking statements in this announcement are based on current expectations. The Company's performance may differ from that contemplated by the forward-looking statement as a result of a variety of factors, including the global and domestic economy, manufacturing yields and operating performance at the Company's various facilities, changes in product mix, the timely and successful completion of pending capital expansions, tax rates and exchange rates.

Brush Wellman Inc., with headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio, is a manufacturer of engineered materials. The Company and its subsidiaries supply worldwide markets with Beryllium Products, Alloy Products, Electronic Products, Precious Metal Products, and Engineered Material Systems.