

## ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

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### TRANSLUCENT WINS CORE PATENT



Silex

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Silex Systems US-based subsidiary Translucent Inc. recently announced achievement of their key technical milestone, demonstrating optical activity in Silicon (refer ASX release 11/11/03). We are now pleased to announce that Translucent Inc. has secured the intellectual property surrounding this invention. Translucent Inc. has received notice of allowance from the United States Patent & Trademark Office, for their core patent "Optical Gain in Silicon". This patent protects not only the core material, but also the device structures which will be fabricated from that material.

Translucent's technology is sufficiently differentiated from the prior-art to establish an ownership position in this pivotal field. Translucent's key differentiator is the ability to produce optical activity in pure crystalline semiconductor grade Silicon which can then be utilized for mainstream electronics. Unlike the materials and processes referenced in the prior-art which destroyed this essential feature, material produced using Translucent's processing technology allows the co-existence of optical and electrical activity on the same silicon substrate.

"We continue to be impressed with Translucent's ability to deliver on this exciting technology" said Dr Michael Goldsworthy, CEO of Silex Systems. "A major concern has always been whether they could sufficiently protect their intellectual property; this patent is a crucial step in their business strategy". Previous efforts to produce optical grade silicon could not produce sufficient optical activity without damaging the electrical properties of Silicon. Translucent's achievements are unique in overcoming this barrier.

Due to the size of the disclosure, number of claims and its broad scope, the Patent has spawned several divisional applications which spring from the core intellectual property. We expect these Devices & Applications to be announced over the coming year. In addition, translucent has a number of independent patent applications also under examination which protect the manufacturing tools and processes that enable production of what Translucent call "Optical Silicon."

Silex initially invested in Translucent Inc. in April 2001, and gained majority ownership in September 2003 when it moved to a 73% stake with a second funding package (details as per previous ASX announcements).

Further information on the Company's activities can be found on the Silex website: [www.silex.com.au](http://www.silex.com.au) or by contacting the persons listed below.

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**Forward looking statements**

*Silex is a research and development company whose assets are its proprietary rights in technologies, including, but not limited to, the SILEX technology, Translucent technology and Fiberbyte technology. Most of the company's technologies are in the development stage and have not been commercially deployed. Accordingly, the statements in this announcement regarding the future of the company's technologies and commercial prospects are forward looking and actual results could be materially different from those expressed or implied by such forward looking statements as a result of various factors. Some factors that could affect future results and prospects include, but are not limited to, results from the uranium enrichment development program and the stable isotopes program, the demand for enriched materials including uranium, silicon, oxygen, zirconium, carbon and others, the outcomes of the company's interests in various semiconductor and photonics technologies, and the development of alternative technologies.*