



## Cree Reports Financial Results for the Second Quarter of Fiscal 2007

### Revenue of \$89 Million and Diluted EPS of \$0.21

DURHAM, NC, JANUARY 18, 2007 – Cree, Inc. (Nasdaq: CREE), a market-leading innovator of semiconductors that enhance the value of solid-state lighting, power and communications products, today announced revenue of \$88.8 million for its fiscal second quarter ended December 24, 2006. This represents a 16% decrease compared to revenue of \$105.6 million reported for the year ago period. Net income for the second quarter was \$16.5 million, or \$0.21 per diluted share, which includes a gain from the sale of marketable securities of \$0.15 per diluted share, compared to \$17.7 million or \$0.23 per diluted share for the second quarter of 2006.

For the six-month period ended December 24, 2006, Cree reported revenue of \$192.7 million. This represents an eight percent decrease compared to the same period in fiscal year 2006. Net income for the six-month period was \$29.8 million, or \$0.38 per diluted share, which includes a gain from the sale of marketable securities of \$0.15 per diluted share, compared to \$39.4 million, or \$0.51 per diluted share for the same period last year.

"As we announced in early December, the second quarter was more challenging than we had targeted with lower LED chip sales," stated Chuck Swoboda, Cree chairman and CEO. "Despite the challenges in the LED chip business, we continued to make progress on our strategy to expand our business by leveraging our strengths in LED chip and SiC materials technology to broaden our product line with higher-value, component-level products for the emerging markets in LED lighting and power. Our new product lines delivered double-digit growth in Q2, with LED component sales increasing to more than 10% of total LED revenue for the first time. The growth in these new product lines is an important, leading indicator of how we plan to grow the company over the next several years."

#### Q2 Financial Highlights:

- \* Gross margin was 34% of revenue.
- \* Operating profit was 3.5% of revenue.
- \* Recognized a gain of \$11.4 million on the sale of an investment and received cash proceeds of \$16.7 million.
- \* The company repurchased 767,082 shares for \$13.3 million, or \$17.30 per share.
- \* Cash flow from operations was \$18 million.
- \* Cash and investments equaled \$331 million.

#### Recent Business Highlights:

- \* Began volume shipments of the newest white Cree XLamp® 7090 power LED, which established new benchmarks for power LED performance with luminous flux of up to 95 lumens or 85 lumens per watt at 350 mA, and up to 160 lumens at 700 mA. New customer wins have already been secured due to its brightness and efficiency.
- \* Signed a global distribution agreement with Arrow Electronics to sell Cree XLamp products. Arrow is one of the top electronic components distributors in the world, and this agreement is an important piece of our strategy to expand sales of our component products.
- \* Named Robert Pollock as Senior VP of Worldwide Sales. Mr. Pollock served most recently as a vice president of sales at Philips Lumileds and has nearly 30 years of sales and sales management experience.
- \* Expanded its patent litigation against BridgeLux with claims of infringement of U.S. Patent Nos. 6,614,056 and 6,885,036, and is seeking an injunction to stop BridgeLux's on-going infringement.

#### Business Outlook:

For its third quarter of fiscal 2007, Cree currently targets revenue to be similar to the reported results for the second quarter of fiscal 2007 with earnings of \$0.04 to \$0.05 per diluted share.

Cree will host a conference call at 5:00 p.m. Eastern time today to review the highlights of the second quarter fiscal 2007 results and the third quarter fiscal 2007 business outlook, including significant factors and assumptions underlying the targets noted above. The conference call will be available to the public through a live audio web broadcast via the Internet. Log on to Cree's website at [www.cree.com](http://www.cree.com) and go to "Investor Relations — Overview" for webcast details. The call will be archived and

available on the website through February 1, 2007.

Supplemental financial information is available in the "Investor Relations" section of Cree's website, under "Financial Metrics," "Quarter ending December 24, 2006".

#### **About Cree, Inc.**

Cree is a market-leading innovator and manufacturer of semiconductors that enhance the value of solid-state lighting, power and communications products by significantly increasing their energy performance and efficiency. Key to Cree's market advantage is its world-class materials expertise in silicon carbide (SiC) and gallium nitride (GaN) for chips and packaged devices that can handle more power in a smaller space while producing less heat than other available technologies, materials and products.

Cree drives its increased performance technology into multiple applications, including exciting alternatives in brighter and more-tunable light for general illumination, backlighting for more-vivid displays, optimized power management for high-current, switch-mode power supplies and variable-speed motors, and more-effective wireless infrastructure for data and voice communications. Cree customers range from innovative lighting-fixtures makers to defense-related federal agencies.

Cree's product families include blue and green LED chips, lighting LEDs in all colors, LED backlighting solutions, power-switching devices and radio-frequency/wireless devices. For additional information please refer to [www.cree.com](http://www.cree.com).

The schedules attached to this release are an integral part of the release. This press release contains forward-looking statements involving risks and uncertainties, both known and unknown, that may cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated. Actual results, including with respect to our targets and prospects, could differ materially due to a number of factors, including our ability to complete development and commercialization of products under development, such as our pipeline of brighter LED chips and packaged products; our ability to lower costs; potential changes in demand; increasing price competition in key markets; the risk that, due to the complexity of our manufacturing processes and transition of production to larger wafers, we may experience production delays that preclude us from shipping sufficient quantities to meet customer orders or that result in higher production costs and lower margins; risks associated with the ramp-up of our production for our new products; risks resulting from the concentration of our business among few customers, including the risk that customers may reduce or cancel orders or fail to honor purchase commitments; the rapid development of new technology and competing products that may impair demand or render our products obsolete; the potential lack of customer acceptance for our products; risks associated with our recent acquisition; risks associated with on-going litigation; and other factors discussed in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including our report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 25, 2006, and subsequent reports filed with the SEC. Except as required under the U.S. federal securities laws and the rules and regulations of the SEC, Cree disclaims any obligation to update any forward-looking statements after the date of this release, whether as a result of new information, future events, developments, changes in assumptions or otherwise.

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