

Hypertherm

C E L E B R A T I N G

40 Y E A R S

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Hypertherm Honored With Award
for Communications Excellence**

HANOVER, N.H.—May 28, 2008—Hypertherm, the world leader in plasma metal cutting technology, today announced it is a 2008 winner of the ESOP (Employee Stock Ownership Plan) Associations' Annual Award for Communications Excellence.

Judges recognized the company for the quality and quantity of its ESOP communications, as well as the level of involvement demonstrated by Hypertherm associates. They also felt Hypertherm excelled at integrating its ESOP program into company culture. Hypertherm was selected as the overall winner for companies with between 501 and 1,000 employees.

"This win is a great testament to the team we have here at Hypertherm," said Wayne Churchill who heads up Hypertherm's Ownership Communications Team. "I think I speak for all Hypertherm associates in saying we feel fortunate to have a program that enables us to share in Hypertherm's success."

As an award winner, the ESOP Association will recognize Hypertherm in its annual report, its national newsletter, and at a national conference taking place this month.

Hypertherm founded its ESOP program, which it calls the Hypertherm Stock Ownership Plan, in 2001. At the time, shares were valued at approximately \$7 each. Today the stock is valued at \$43.25 per share. Hypertherm's international associates take part in a similar program called the Global Stock Value Plan (GSVP).

The ESOP Association serves approximately 2,500 employee-owned companies. The association operates on the belief that employee ownership improves American competitiveness, increases productivity through greater employee participation, and strengthens the United States' free enterprise economy. Its Annual Award for Communications Excellence recognizes companies who have excelled in communicating the benefits of employee stock ownership plans.

Hypertherm designs and manufactures the world's most advanced plasma cutting systems for use in a variety of industries such as shipbuilding, manufacturing, and automotive repair. Its product line includes handheld and mechanized plasma systems and consumables, as well as CNC motion and height controls. Hypertherm systems are trusted for performance and reliability that results in increased productivity and profitability for tens of thousands of businesses. The New Hampshire based company's reputation for plasma innovation dates back 40 years, to 1968, with Hypertherm's invention of water injection plasma cutting. The company, consistently named one of the best places to work in America, has nearly 1,000 associates along with operations and partner representation worldwide.

END

Contact: Michelle Avila at 603-643-3441 or pr@hypertherm.com

