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**Golden Powermax® Makes Its Way Across the United States
Oregon Metal Fabricator Becomes Lucky Owner**

Hanover, NH, USA—Hypertherm®, the world leader in metal cutting technology, today announced the sale of its 50,000 Powermax600®—a milestone that marks the Powermax600 as the best selling plasma cutting system in Hypertherm history.

The 50,000 unit is now in the hands of Steven Thompson, the owner of a structural steel fabrication shop in the Pacific Northwest. Mr. Thompson's company, Central Oregon Industries, primarily manufactures structural steel components used in the construction of commercial buildings. Central Oregon Industries also fabricates a variety of ornamental and architectural pieces such as hand rails and sun shades.

Until recently, Mr. Thompson and his team only cut with oxyfuel. However, recent business growth meant the oxyfuel method was no longer meeting Central Oregon Industries' business needs.

"I knew we needed to find another solution if we were to have any hope of keeping up with the increased demand for our products, and plasma seemed the clear choice," said Mr. Thompson.

Plasma offers several benefits over oxyfuel. For one thing, it's faster and cleaner. Plasma cutting speeds are up to four times faster than oxyfuel and the cuts are cleaner because dry air is used in most applications. Plasma produces a narrower cut with a smaller heat affected zone so less clean-up is required. Plus, it can cut a wider range of metals—including stainless steel and aluminum—in addition to mild steel.

"As a small business owner, I don't have room for error. That's why I did my research when looking for a new plasma cutter. I needed a reliable system that would enable me to cut with confidence every time. The one constant during my search for the best plasma system is that everyone kept mentioning Hypertherm."

The 50,000 unit was sold to Mr. Thompson by Norco, a gases and welding distributorship based in Boise, Idaho who sold the very first Powermax600 in North America. He received a free FineCut consumable kit, which comes standard with every special "Gold Edition" Powermax, and a complete set of Powermax accessories, including a wheeled cart donated by Norco.

Mr. Thompson purchased a second Hypertherm system—a HySpeed HSD130—to meet his mechanized system needs.

Hypertherm began manufacturing a limited number of the Gold Edition Powermax units on September 1. People interested in obtaining one, while they are available, should contact an authorized Hypertherm distributor. Anyone needing help finding a distributor can visit the Hypertherm Web site at www.hypertherm.com.

Since 1968, Hypertherm has been the industry leader in plasma arc cutting equipment and service. By continually delivering breakthrough advances in metal-cutting productivity and precision – first in plasma, now also in laser – Hypertherm reaffirms and extends its position as the world's leading supplier of advanced high temperature metal cutting technology. Hypertherm serves a wide range of industrial metal cutting needs from its headquarters in Hanover, New Hampshire, with subsidiaries, sales offices and partner representation worldwide.

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