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Engineering Advances Set New Torch Height Control Apart from Other Controls on Market Today

HANOVER, N.H.—May 20, 2010—Metal formers and fabricators have a new way to improve cut quality and lower operating costs. The new ArcGlide® THC torch height control from Hypertherm includes several engineering advances to make it unlike any other THC available today. Benefits include optimized consumable life and the ability to nearly double the number of parts cut per hour.



The ArcGlide THC can achieve its performance benefits without operator input. Traditional torch height controls require operators to periodically adjust arc voltage to ensure proper cut height. However, the ArcGlide is specially engineered to continuously sample and automatically adjust the arc voltage. This ensures the torch is always the right distance from the plate so consumables reach their intended life expectancy. In laboratory testing, Hypertherm engineers found consumables lasted three times longer when the arc voltage was properly adjusted. In addition, they found overall cut quality was better and more consistent, helping businesses become more profitable.

Productivity advances are achieved through a reduction in cut-to-cut cycle time. The prepared part program and ArcGlide THC work together to minimize unnecessary motion between cuts, while proprietary Rapid Ignition™ technology allows the torch to fire as soon as it is in position, further reducing cut-to-cut cycle time. In testing, the total time between cuts was reduced by up to 80 percent and parts cut per hour increased by up to 100 percent.

Like Hypertherm's recently introduced EDGE Pro® CNC, the ArcGlide is easy to install and easy to use. Color coded and keyed cables connect the THC to the lifter, plasma power supply and CNC, while a simple user interface and large controls ensure there is no operator confusion or frustration. The engineering advances found on the ArcGlide extend to the outside of the unit. Engineers added a tough outer shell and completely enclosed the slide mechanics with two layers of armored protection to keep dust and metal debris from getting inside. They also added a pierce guard to keep molten metal from splattering back onto the control. Their goal was to make the ArcGlide extremely rugged so businesses didn't have unexpected downtime.

“The new ArcGlide is a significant step forward in the THC world,” said Peter Brahan, leader of Hypertherm's Automation team. “We listened to our customers and gave them the features and benefits they wanted to see. As a result, we are confident the ArcGlide will help metal cutters enjoy greater success—and ultimately maximum profit—in their cutting operations.”

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, plasma and laser consumables, as well

as CNC motion and height controls and cutting software. 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 more than 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 more than 1,000 associates along with operations and partner representation worldwide.

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