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Hypertherm Announces Settlement in Patent Infringement Lawsuit

HANOVER, N.H.—March 24, 2009—Hypertherm, the world leader in plasma arc metal cutting technology, today announced a favorable settlement in a patent infringement lawsuit against the American Torch Tip Corporation (ATTC).

Exact terms are undisclosed, however the settlement includes a cash payment from ATTC to Hypertherm, and an agreement that ATTC will stop producing the parts at issue in the lawsuit. In addition, ATTC has agreed to destroy key parts in its inventory for Hypertherm's HyPerformance HPR systems.

"Hypertherm devotes an enormous amount of resources to the development of technologically advanced plasma cutting systems and consumables," said Evan Smith, Hypertherm's vice president and general manager. "We believe that our innovations deliver unique advantages and superior productivity and profitability for Hypertherm's customers. As such, we are very protective of our inventions and will use whatever legal means necessary to ensure that our patents are not violated."

Hypertherm filed suit against ATTC in 2005 for infringing four patented technologies. Those patents covered Hypertherm technology designed to deliver faster cut speeds, longer consumable life, improved cut quality, better torch cooling, and dross-free performance to customers using genuine Hypertherm consumables. The Hypertherm patents cover more than 30 consumable parts for approximately 20 Hypertherm systems. Terms of the settlement prohibit ATTC from continuing to manufacture these parts.

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 more than 1,000 associates along with operations and partner representation worldwide.

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