



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First Curriculum for Plasma Cutting and Gouging to Teach Tomorrow's Workforce



HANOVER, N.H.—Nov. 19, 2009—Hypertherm, the world leader in plasma arc metal cutting technology, today announced the availability of the first commercial curriculum specifically for plasma cutting and gouging.

Created with input from welding instructors, *Plasma Cutting Technology: Theory and Practice* includes lessons and exercises, interactive presentation slides, a comprehensive facilitator's guide, and models of real plasma torches and consumables for classroom use. In addition to traditional classroom instruction, the 10-hour curriculum incorporates multi-media platforms with hands-on exercises and training to accommodate students with a range of learning styles.

The teachers who provided input are pleased with the end result. David Gilliam, the director of training at the Tulsa Welding School says "The curriculum is usable, up-to-date, and contains the right academic information and hands-on exercises. I highly recommend it." Michael Pike, a welding instructor in New Hampshire agrees. "I've been welding and using plasma for over 35 years and this is the best teaching aid I've ever seen. I expect it will keep my students fully focused."

"Learning how to cut with plasma is a standard part of most any welding program. Yet until now, no standard curriculum for teaching plasma even existed," said Christopher Lorio, Hypertherm's director of global customer training. "This meant the training and information students were receiving could vary widely."

Students exposed to *Plasma Cutting Technology: Theory and Practice* can expect to learn what plasma is and how it cuts metal, common industrial uses for plasma systems, the differences between various cutting methods, proper setup and operation, proper consumable installation and usage, how to evaluate cut quality and how to execute a variety of cuts and gouges.

This curriculum is part of an initiative by Hypertherm to support the teaching of plasma cutting to tomorrow's workforce. Many industries such as manufacturing and construction rely heavily on skilled welders who can cut and weld metal, yet the United States is suffering from a significant welder shortage. The problem is compounded by the average age of current welders. Many are nearing retirement and expected to leave the workforce in the coming years. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates the U.S. will need 450,000 welders by 2014.

The curriculum, available exclusively through Hypertherm authorized gas and welding distributors, is appropriate for welding instructors at both the high school and college level, union and military trainers, in-house training departments, welding and cutting distributors who want to offer value-added customer training, and leaders of student organizations such as Future Farmers of America. Special educational pricing on both the curriculum and Hypertherm Powermax systems is available.

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