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Hypertherm Announces Acquisition of Leading Manufacturer and Supplier of Laser Consumables

HANOVER, N.H.—June 25, 2008—Hypertherm, the world leader in plasma arc cutting technology, today announced the acquisition of Italy based ESSE A Srl., a leading manufacturer and supplier of laser consumables and accessories. Financial terms are undisclosed.

This acquisition adds to Hypertherm's technology portfolio, manufacturing assets and customer base in laser cutting heads and consumables, while expanding Hypertherm's product offering to its growing base of global channel partners. In addition, it provides ESSE A with access to Hypertherm's significant technology resources and global operations and sales infrastructure. ESSE A, and its approximately 20 associates, will remain in Italy, where all of ESSE A's manufacturing facilities are located. Hypertherm does not plan any significant changes to its operations as a result of this purchase.

"The acquisition of ESSE A complements our current laser cutting business, strengthens our Centricut technology-based product offering, and expands our access to laser customers on the basis of ESSE A's proven reputation for high-quality products and superior service," said Hypertherm President Dick Couch.

"My partners and I are very excited to join the Hypertherm family," said ESSE A founder Stefano Achiluzzi. "I have had enormous respect for Hypertherm throughout my career and am certain this will result in exciting opportunities for both our associates and customers alike."

ESSE A's corporate culture is remarkably similar to Hypertherm, with a strong focus on its customers and on producing technologically advanced products that make metal cutting more productive and cost-effective. ESSE A's wide range of laser consumables, including nozzles and other manufactured accessories are sold to customers around the world, while optics and lenses are sold exclusively in Italy. This nearly 20 year old company has built its reputation on producing the highest quality consumables available today.

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 company's reputation for plasma innovation dates back 40 years, to 1968, with Hypertherm's invention of water injection plasma cutting. The company has more than 1,000 associates along with operations and partner representation worldwide.

Hypertherm has been advised by Arietti & Partners, the Italian team of M&A International Inc., and D'Urso Gatti & Associati law firm. ESSE A has been advised by Aurea Corporate Finance, the Italian team of Mergers Alliance, and by Mrs. Annalisa Todaro Codicé as legal advisor.

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