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CELEBRATING  
**40**  
YEARS

## Hypertherm Celebrates 40 Years of Plasma Cutting Innovation

**Hanover, NH—June 12, 2008**—Hypertherm, the world leader in plasma arc metal cutting technology, is celebrating 40 years of plasma cutting innovation with several worldwide events during the month of June.

The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary events kick off south of the border with Hypertherm founder Dick Couch and vice president of human resources, Barbara Couch. The Couches' will celebrate with Hypertherm associates and customers in Mexico City; Sao Paulo, Brazil; and a few other South American cities before returning to the United States for a June 18 celebration at the company's headquarters in Hanover, New Hampshire. They will then head off to Europe and Asia.

### Event Advisory

**Media are invited to join Hypertherm's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on June 18. All of Hypertherm's New Hampshire Associates will gather with guests from around North America for a sit down lunch. The event will feature several special presentations, in addition to a formal commendation from the State of New Hampshire.**

Hypertherm's history of plasma cutting innovation dates back to 1968 when Mr. Couch, then a twenty-something engineering graduate, and associate Bob Dean, made a discovery that would revolutionize the plasma cutting industry forever. Working out of a small two car garage, they discovered that by radially injecting water into a plasma cutting nozzle, they could create a narrower arc. That discovery made it possible to cut metal with a speed and accuracy never before seen. The dross issue and a phenomenon called double-arc—were virtually eliminated.

Hypertherm continues its commitment to innovate and improve plasma cutting technology to this day; dedicating more resources to plasma research, development, and testing than any other plasma cutting manufacturer in the world. In fact, Hypertherm systems are found on more of the world's metal cutting table than any other brand. Its product line includes the Powermax30®, a recent judge's award winner and finalist for New Hampshire product of the year, and its HyPerformance® brand of mechanized cutters.

The number of advancements made by Hypertherm during its 40 year history are too long to list—the company holds at least 75 patents—but it includes technology aimed at making plasma cutting better, faster, and less expensive for people. It all comes down to reliability and performance.

"We know the reliability and performance of our systems has a direct impact on the success of our customers," said Hypertherm president Dick Couch. "If our systems aren't the best they can be, our customers aren't as profitable as they could or should be."

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 cutters and consumables, as well as CNC motion and height controls. Hypertherm systems are trusted for fast, precision metal cutting 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, plasma cutting training centers and partner representation worldwide.

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