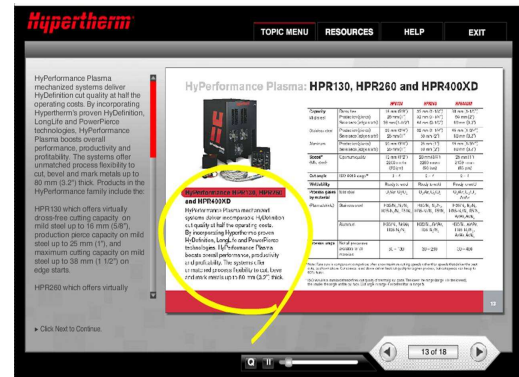




FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hypertherm Cutting Institute Adds New Course to Online Curriculum

HANOVER, N.H.—Feb. 9, 2009—Hypertherm, the world leader in plasma arc metal cutting technology, is out with a new e-learning course for its channel partner sales team.



The 20-minute course, which is focused on teaching sales people how to effectively utilize the updated Mechanized Cutting Solutions Guide, is available through the Hypertherm Cutting Institute's online classroom, which can be accessed at www.HyperthermCuttingInstitute.com.

The course helps OEMs and distributors recommend the best mechanized metal cutting system for their customers based on each customer's specific business needs. It expands upon Hypertherm's updated Mechanized Cutting Solutions Guide, which now includes information on Hypertherm's recently introduced HyPerformance HPR400XD. The guide gives sales professionals the technical knowledge to answer just about any question their customers may have. For instance:

- How do I decide between oxyfuel, plasma, and laser?
- If I do decide on plasma, which brand should I buy and why?
- How do I decide which plasma system is right for me?
- Can you provide more information about the system(s) you are recommending?

In addition to this latest course offering, visitors to the Hypertherm Cutting Institute can take a course that focuses on the features and benefits of the Powermax45 and how the system can meet the cutting needs of end users. A second course guides salespeople on the use of supporting sales and marketing materials to increase sales of Powermax products.

"Hypertherm believes this latest Hypertherm Training Institute course meets our goal of offering strong support to all of our channel partners," said Christopher Lorio, Hypertherm's Director of Global Customer Training. "Good selling tools are especially critical in this current economic environment in which customers must increase overall profitability to survive."

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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