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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Hypertherm Adds Sales Support to Western United States**

**HANOVER, N.H.—July 28, 2010**—Hypertherm, manufacturer of advanced metal cutting systems, today announced the addition of Michael Vanvakaris to its North American Sales Team. Mr. Vanvakaris replaces Kris Scherm who now oversees Hypertherm's network in Northern Texas and Oklahoma.

Joining the team as district manager for Southern California and Southwest Arizona, Mr. Vanvakaris will work to support Hypertherm's distribution partners. In addition, he will increase awareness and demand for Hypertherm systems and consumables throughout the area.

Mr. Vanvakaris has been a fixture within the welding and cutting industry for 28 years. His long history in the industry includes experience at both independent and national gas and welding distributors. Some of the companies he has worked for in the past are Airgas, Air Liquide, and Jancy, where he served as a district manager. Additionally, he holds a structural steel welding license from the city of Los Angeles and is a former regional occupational program welding instructor for Kern County, California.

"Michael's background is a real compliment to our partners in the Southern California and Southwest Arizona markets," said Alan Hamilton, western regional manager for Hypertherm. "His vast knowledge of the industry, and track record of increasing revenues and strengthening relationships, will ensure our channel partners receive the strong support they are accustomed to."

When not visiting distributors, Michael enjoys building his own off-road vehicles and riding his Harley. He is an expert fabricator whose projects have been featured in a number of off-road magazines. He lives with his family just north of Los Angeles.

Hypertherm designs and manufactures advanced metal 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, plasma and laser consumables, as well as CNC motion and height controls and cutting software. 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 metal cutting innovation dates back more than 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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