



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Hypertherm Expands Management Team to Meet Future Challenges

**HANOVER, N.H.—Nov. 12, 2009**—Hypertherm, the world leader in plasma arc metal cutting technology, is expanding its management team in support of several new initiatives as it prepares for future growth. The changes strengthen Hypertherm's commitment to help metal fabricators become more productive and profitable through the use of technologically advanced metal cutting products.

Jeff Deckrow, formerly regional director for North America, is joining Hypertherm's management team as vice-president of North American sales. In his new role, Mr. Deckrow will lead a team focused on delivering superior value to channel partners and customers in Hypertherm's largest geographic market.

Peter Vickers, formerly Hypertherm's regional director for Europe, will join the management team as vice-president of international. Mr. Vicker's will lead the continued expansion of Hypertherm's global presence and ensuring strong support to Hypertherm partners in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America.

Dave LaPrade, formerly team leader of Hypertherm's mechanized business which includes products such as Hypertherm's HyPerformance HPR systems, is joining the management team as vice-president and general manager of systems. In his new role, Mr. LaPrade will oversee the continued development of Hypertherm's mechanized and hand-held plasma cutting systems business in conjunction with Hypertherm's growing offerings in CNC controllers, torch height controls, and nesting/process-optimization software added in the acquisition of MTC Software.

Finally, Gordon Rice, who served as team leader of Hypertherm's torch and consumables business is joining the management team as vice-president and general manager of consumables. He will oversee Hypertherm's expanding torch and consumables businesses, including the recently acquired laser consumable business, Esse A.

"Hypertherm is fortunate to have such experienced and proven leaders within our ranks," said Hypertherm founder and president Dick Couch. "I am certain these additions to our senior management team will better position Hypertherm for the future, helping us to further strengthen our leadership position within the metal cutting industry through even more rapid innovation, strategic growth, and ever greater value creation for our partners and customers."

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 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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