



Hypertherm Announces Inaugural Richard W. Couch Award Recognizing Top Independent Distributor for North American Region

HANOVER, N.H.—Hypertherm today announced the inaugural Richard W. Couch, Jr. Award. The award, named after Hypertherm founder and president Dick Couch, recognizes the top independent distributor in Hypertherm’s North American region.

Norco, a welding and gas distributor based in the Northwestern U.S., is the first recipient of the award. Norco was selected through a ballot process involving Hypertherm’s management team, North American sales team, and customer and technical service teams. To be considered, distributors need to have independent status, excel at merchandising and stocking Hypertherm product, employ a well trained and knowledgeable sales staff, and support all of Hypertherm’s core product lines.

The award includes a \$500 donation to a nonprofit organization of the winner’s choice. Norco has decided to donate the money to a new vocational training facility currently under construction at the College of Western Idaho.

Mr. Couch, who personally presented the award to Norco, says “It is an honor to recognize our independent distributors and Norco certainly rises to the top for their strong support of Hypertherm and our products. All of us at Hypertherm look forward to continuing our partnership with Norco for many years to come.”

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 and laser systems, 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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Contact: Michelle Avila at 603-643-3441 or pr@hypertherm.com

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