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Hypertherm's ArcGlide torch height control wins award for metalworking innovation

HANOVER, NH—Dec. 12, 2011—Hypertherm, a United States based manufacturer of advanced metal cutting products, today announced its ArcGlide® THC torch height control is the recipient of the 2011 Ringier Metalworking Innovation Award. The award recognizes companies that have made a significant contribution to the advancement of industry through technical innovations that increase productivity and economic efficiency. It is considered one of the most influential industrial accolades in Asia.

Several engineering advances make the ArcGlide unlike any other THC available today. Benefits include optimized consumable life and the ability to nearly double the number of parts cut per hour through the use of Rapid Part technology. The patent-pending technology—part of Hypertherm's Integrated Plasma Cutting Solution—significantly reduces cut-to-cut cycle (or non-cutting) time.

Particularly notable is the ArcGlide THC's ability to achieve these performance benefits without operator input. Traditional torch height controls require operators to periodically adjust arc voltage to ensure proper cut height. However, the ArcGlide is specially engineered to continuously sample and automatically adjust the arc voltage. This ensures the torch is always the right distance from the plate so consumables reach their intended life expectancy. In laboratory testing, Hypertherm engineers found consumables lasted three times longer when the arc voltage was properly adjusted. In addition, they found overall cut quality was better and more consistent, helping businesses become more profitable.

Like Hypertherm's recently introduced EDGE Pro® CNC, the ArcGlide is easy to install and easy to use. Color coded and keyed cables connect the THC to the lifter, plasma power supply and CNC, while a simple user interface and large controls ensure there is no operator confusion or frustration. The engineering advances found on the ArcGlide extend to the outside of the unit. Engineers added a tough outer shell and completely enclosed the slide mechanics with two layers of armored protection to keep dust and metal debris from getting inside. They also added a pierce guard to keep molten metal from splattering back onto the control. Their goal was to make the ArcGlide extremely rugged so businesses didn't have unexpected downtime.

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 a best place to work, has more than 1,000 associates along with operations and partner representation worldwide.

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