



Media Contact:

Adrienne Zalkind

800/443-9353 (x416); azalkind@aws.org

American Welding Society Foundation Receives \$100K Donation from Hobart Institute of Welding Technology to Help Relieve the Shortage of Welders

Miami, FL, January 3, 2008 – The [American Welding Society](#) (AWS) and the [AWS Foundation](#) announced today that it has received a \$100,000 donation from the Hobart Institute of Welding Technology to help relieve the nationwide shortage of welders. It is estimated that there will be a shortage of at least 200,000 welders by 2010. AWS is the world’s largest organization dedicated to advancing the science, technology and application of welding. The Hobart Institute of Welding Technology provides training and education about various welding technologies.

The donation was granted to the AWS Foundation Welder Workforce Development Program, which was launched in 2006 to address the critical need for recruitment and specialized training of entry level welders while supporting welding workforce needs for companies. The Welder Workforce Development Program is part of the AWS Foundation’s \$10 million capital campaign, “[Welding for the Strength of America](#),” which is aimed at facilitating programs, scholarships and other initiatives in support of the welding industry. At year-end 2007, the AWS Foundation raised \$2.6 million toward its campaign effort.

“The support we have received from the Hobart Institute of Welding is a testament to the importance of the AWS Foundation campaign and will enhance our ability to make positive changes in the welding industry,” said AWS Foundation chairman Ronald C. Pierce. “The Hobart Institute of Welding is one of the best welding training facilities in the country. Their graduate job placement rate is among the highest in the industry and they are deeply attuned to the needs of American business. The nation-wide shortage of welders has been detrimental to manufacturing and businesses will continue to suffer unless we act together as an industry to fill this urgent need.”

The Hobart Institute of Welding Technology is located at 400 Trade Square East in Troy, Ohio. It was started in 1930 as a department of the Hobart Brothers Company. In 1940, the school was granted a charter as a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation and is governed by a board of directors. As the demand for skilled welders strengthened over the years, the school continued to expand and increase capacity. In 1991, the name was officially changed to the Hobart Institute of Welding Technology. The school remains an independent entity and is housed in a 105,000-square-foot facility featuring 150 welding booths; 19 classrooms; and four demonstration laboratories. Over 85,000 people have successfully completed Hobart Institute of Welding Technology courses, according to the school.

About AWS

The American Welding Society (AWS) was founded in 1919 as a multifaceted, nonprofit organization with a mission to advance the science, technology and application of welding and allied joining and cutting processes, including brazing, soldering, and thermal spraying. Headquartered in Miami, Florida, and led by a volunteer organization of officers and directors, AWS serves more than 50,000 members worldwide and is composed of 22 districts with 250 sections and student chapters. For more information, visit the Society’s website at <http://www.aws.org> and click on “[pressroom](#).”