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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **AMERICAN WELDING SOCIETY APPOINTS NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR OF CERTIFICATION**

***\*\*New Managing Director John Filippi to Support AWS' Global Expansion Strategy\*\****

**Miami, FL, January 30, 2008** – The [American Welding Society](http://www.aws.org) (AWS), the world's largest organization dedicated to advancing the science, technology and application of welding, announced today the appointment of John Filippi as managing director of [certification operations](#). In this role, Mr. Filippi will support AWS' global expansion strategy and help to manage the overall development, integrity and technical content of the Society's certification programs.

Mr. Filippi is a 20-year veteran with wide-ranging expertise in operations management. Most recently he served as operations manager at Ikon Office Solutions, Inc., a large independent channel for document management systems and services with 2007 annual revenue of \$4.2 billion and approximately 25,000 employees in over 400 locations throughout North America and Western Europe. In that capacity, Mr. Filippi was responsible for several operational duties including production and facility management, equipment maintenance and budgeting. Prior to that, Mr. Filippi was plant foreman at Facelifters Home Systems, a manufacturer of home improvement products. In that role, he managed production planning and operations, quality control and OSHA compliance.

At AWS, Mr. Filippi will support the Society's mission to expand AWS certification programs both within the U.S. and around the globe. Toward that goal, Mr. Filippi will focus on strengthening certification programs while maintaining positive relationships with national agencies and partners that conduct business on behalf of AWS. These include AWS accredited testing facilities.

Mr. Filippi holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Bernard Baruch University in New York, NY.

***\*\*\*Note: To view photo and caption, please visit the [press photo gallery](#) in AWS' press room: <http://www.aws.org/pr/photos.html>.\*\*\****

### 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](#)."