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AMERICAN WELDING SOCIETY NAMES WORLD ENGINEERING XCHANGE AS INTERNATIONAL AUDITOR

Miami, FL, February 7, 2008 – The American Welding Society (AWS) announced today that World Engineering Xchange, Ltd. (WEX) has been engaged as the Society’s international auditing agency, effective immediately.

WEX will be responsible for auditing AWS certification seminars and exams that take place outside of the United States. In addition, WEX will assist AWS’s international certification agencies with the development of strategies that improve and promote AWS interests within the international market. AWS has 16 international certification agents operating certification programs in 20 countries.

“We have enjoyed a successful relationship with WEX since they became our fulfillment partner for AWS codes, standards and other publications,” said Cassie Burrell, AWS deputy executive director. “WEX’s focus on quality, dependable service, first-class reputation and knowledge of our industry make them particularly well-suited to take an additional role as AWS’s international auditor. We look forward to working with WEX in all phases of their auditing activities as we continue to expand and enhance our international certification base.”

Over the last two years AWS has experienced robust growth in its international certification division. In 2006, certification program revenues grew by 128% over 2005, and in 2007, the Society experienced an additional 23% growth in revenue over the prior year. Currently, AWS has more than 52,500 members worldwide, including about 6,830 international members of which 77% are certified.

As part of WEX’s responsibilities as the international auditor, the company will conduct ongoing quality control and technical compliance analyses of all AWS international agencies. In addition, WEX will help to maintain open communication streams between AWS and its international agencies while ensuring that AWS best practices and procedures are followed. WEX will soon host a meeting of AWS international agencies to share information and strategies for 2008.

“WEX is very pleased to work with the AWS international agencies and accredited testing facilities,” said Jeff Kennedy, vice president of operations at WEX. “We value our relationship with AWS and look forward to continued success while assisting the Society and its agencies.”

WEX was founded in 2005 as a leading provider of critical reference data to organizations with mechanical, industrial or civil engineering interests. The company has more than 25 domestic and international dealers and is headquartered in Miami, FL.

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](#).”