



American Welding Society®

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jeff Deckrow Elected Chair of American Welding Society's Welding Equipment Manufacturers Committee (WEMCO)

13-Year Employee of Hypertherm Will Serve the Society During Its 90th Anniversary

MIAMI, FL – May 13, 2009 – Jeff Deckrow, an American Welding Society (AWS) member and 13-year employee of Hypertherm, a company that designs and manufactures plasma cutting systems, has been elected as the 2009 chairman of the American Welding Society's Welding Equipment Manufacturers Committee (WEMCO).

“Having been in the welding industry for over 13 years, it's an honor to serve the many members who join WEMCO to harmonize efforts for promotion, distribution and acceptance of our products globally, while also contributing to the well-being of the industry,” said Deckrow.

Formerly an independent organization, WEMCO joined AWS in 1996 as a Standing Committee dedicated to providing a common voice to the welding industry, government bodies and technical organizations worldwide. Today, the committee, representing manufacturers making products for welding processes and applications, provides value added information and services to end users, distributors and manufacturers in the welding industry. In addition, WEMCO oversees the annual ‘Image of Welding Awards,’ the industry's top awards competition saluting the year's most outstanding individuals, companies and public initiatives that promote the image of welding.

During his term, Deckrow will manage the affairs of WEMCO by overseeing plans and programs which benefit the understanding of welding equipment market trends and needs, sharing solutions with members to current industry, organizational and business problems/opportunities and assisting the AWS in enhancing the image of welding as a career choice and as an industry crucial to building and maintaining the world's economic infrastructure. In addition, Deckrow will represent the Society at many of its local and national meetings.

Deckrow joined Hypertherm in 1996 as Division Sales Manager responsible for the sales team in the western United States and the startup of Hypertherm's operations in Mexico. In his current role as Director, North America, he is responsible for all sales, marketing and sales support within the United States and Canada.

In addition to WEMCO, Deckrow serves on the board of the American Welding Society's Publications, Expositions and Marketing Committee (PEMCO). He also has worked extensively with the Gases and Welding Distributors Association (GAWDA), where he served as a board member and chair of the Industry Partnering Committee. Deckrow lives in St. Charles, Illinois, with his wife and three children.

About the American Welding Society

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."

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