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Ray Shook, American Welding Society Executive Director, Joins IIW Board of Directors

Miami, FL, July 19, 2007 – Ray Shook, executive director of the [American Welding Society](http://www.aws.org) (AWS), has joined the board of the [International Institute of Welding](http://www.iiw.org) (IIW), a worldwide coalition of welding institutions and technical associations dedicated to increasing the application and effectiveness of joining technologies. AWS is the world's largest organization dedicated to advancing the science, technology and application of welding.

Having spent 33 years in the welding industry, Mr. Shook has an extensive executive management background encompassing financial management, strategic planning, organizational development, product and business development, and marketing. Since joining AWS in November 2002, he has guided the society through its financial and strategic reorganization, as well as the achievement of several significant milestones, including increasing its membership to more than 50,000 members. Prior to joining AWS, Mr. Shook served for more than twenty years with the Hobart Brothers Company, a leading manufacturer of welding products.

"I am very enthusiastic about joining IIW's board," said Mr. Shook. "The shortage of skilled welders as well as the increasingly global economy continues to transform the welding and fabrication industry landscape. Collaborating with the IIW and introducing new ways in which AWS can help to unite, strengthen and evolve the welding industry across the globe will be critical to making a difference for future generations," Shook said.

Mr. Shook was elected to the IIW board during the IIW 60th Annual Assembly and International Conference held July 1-8, 2007, in Dubrovnik, Croatia. The assembly was attended by representatives of welding societies from 39 countries. Through its 15 technical commissions, the IIW regularly examines topics ranging from structural performance of welded joints to education and training, and from quality control of welded products to safety and health of welding operators.

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](#)."

Note: To view photos associated with this release, please visit the [press photo gallery](#) in AWS' press room: <http://www.aws.org/pr/photos.html>.

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