



NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Pacific Welding Supplies Joins Central Welding Supply Family of Companies

MARYSVILLE, WA, November 30, 2009 - Mickey Wilton, Chairman & Founder, and Dale Wilton, President/CEO of Central Welding Supply Company Inc, announced that Pacific Welding Supplies LLC (PWS) has been added to their family of companies, through acquisition of 100% of PWS LLC units previously owned and controlled by the Fox family. Pacific Welding Supplies is a supplier of welding and industrial equipment and gas services, headquartered in Tacoma, WA. "Pacific Welding Supplies offers a retail and service territory with six southern Puget Sound locations," said Dale Wilton. "We are excited to continue their tradition of unmatched customer service – the core values that have served to establish its successful reputation that began nearly 35 years ago."

Pacific Welding Supplies has been a premier supplier of high pressure and bulk gases, welding, safety, and industrial supplies, welder service and repair, welding automation, and welding equipment rental, with approximately 70 dedicated employees and revenue that now approaches \$20M annually. PWS's six locations include: Auburn, WA, Bremerton, WA, Chehalis, WA, Olympia, Tacoma, WA, and Tacoma Tideflats, WA, as well as the TEC Rental Center in Auburn, WA and a Cylinder Distribution Center in Tacoma, WA.

Prior to the transaction, Pacific Welding Supplies LLC was owned and operated by the Fox family and Mike Fox, Sr., who originally began with Pacific as an equal partner in 1977 but in 2004 became majority owner after purchasing all remaining shares of the other PWS founding partner, Paul VanDyke.

"Mike Fox, Sr. and the Fox family has been a long time friend of the Wilton family and Central Welding Supply, and we couldn't be more pleased to blend his solid organization with ours," said Mickey Wilton. "Our intent is to continue to operate Pacific Welding Supplies LLC as a separate operating division of Central Welding Supply, bringing together staff, assets, knowledge, and resources where most beneficial to the companies, employees, and customers. There are no plans for staff or organizational changes, and their strong and successful management team will continue to guide Pacific Welding Supplies LLC going forward." A new online presence for Pacific Welding Supplies has been launched at

<http://www.pacificwelding.com>.

ABOUT CENTRAL WELDING SUPPLY

Central Welding Supply has been locally owned and operated by the Wilton family since 1975. The company has grown from one small store to thirteen locations, four divisions, two operating companies, and over 170 dedicated and experienced employees. Existing Central Welding Supply retail locations include Ballard, WA, Bellingham, WA, Burlington, WA, Everett, WA, Issaquah, WA, Lynnwood, WA, Port Townsend, WA, Redmond, WA, Renton, WA, Seattle, WA, Smokey Point, WA, and Woodinville, WA, with a location in Anacortes, WA scheduled to open January 2010.

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AFFILIATED DIVISIONS ON THE INTERNET:

WWW.CENTRALWELDING.COM

Provides information and services for our customers throughout the Puget Sound area.

WWW.PACIFICWELDING.COM

Provides information and services for our customers in southern Puget Sound..

WWW.WELDERS-DIRECT.COM

Welders-Direct, is an internet sales division devoted to providing welding equipment to home-hobbyists and small businesses throughout the United States.

WWW.XPRESSCRYOGENICS.COM

The XpressCryogenics division, based in Seattle, WA, serves cryogenic bulk and specialty gas customers, including a truck fleet providing on-site express fill services.

WWW.COMPRESSEDGASWESTERN.COM

Compressed Gas Western is the new beverage gas division, that will provide services through all of Central Welding Supply's Puget Sound location.

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