



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Central Welding Supply Employs Innovation to Expand Cylinder Maintenance Capabilities

MARYSVILLE, WA, August 24, 2011 – Dale Wilton, President/CEO of Central Welding Supply, announces the acquisition of innovative technologies to establish a comprehensive range of capabilities for the company's new Smokey Point, WA cylinder maintenance facility. Additions include the Digital Wave Corporation UE1™ DOT cylinder inspection system, and a Viking GC-111 Blast and Wash System. "The new systems will round out functionality in our cylinder maintenance operation, providing us with the capabilities to paint, re-valve, and re-test all cylinder sizes," said Dale Wilton.

The new Digital Wave UE1 machine uses immersion technology to ultrasonically inspect high-pressure gas cylinders to DOT specs, allowing for the inspection of all common size cylinder types from a single machine. The Viking GC-111 is a semi-automated cylinder shot-blaster used to resurface cylinders in preparation for painting. The systems are among the latest innovations in the gas service industry to support cylinder maintenance in compliance with demanding safety requirements. Central Welding Supply's existing equipment includes cylinder valving equipment. And, the new cylinder maintenance facility, completed in 2011, includes a controlled environment cylinder painting and drying room. "We expect to be in active operation early in 2012, based on equipment installations scheduled in January and February," reports Wilton.

Central Welding Supply is also engaging innovation in operations management under a co-location (Co-Lo) agreement with Digital Wave Corporation. The actual operation of the UE1 cylinder testing system will be controlled on-site by Digital Wave. "Instead of us hiring and training the specialized staff required to operate and maintain the equipment, Digital Wave will bring their own certified staff to operate the testing

system under a mutually beneficial service agreement. We'll pay a fee per cylinder tested," said Wilton, "and Digital Wave is officially the employer of the operator working in our facility." The Co-Lo arrangement is relatively new, and an innovation that Digital Wave developed for the medical cylinder testing business. "The Co-Lo agreement was designed for national customers who wanted test sites, but none of the staff, training, and record keeping overhead," said Wilton. Digital Wave is adapting the service for industrial use, and Central Welding Supply is an early adopter of this new service's two operating arrangements.

Central Welding Supply is the largest locally/family owned welding supplies and gases distributor in the Puget Sound region, offering industrial, specialty, medical and beverage gas products and services. Their gas installation services include bulk and micro-bulk cryogenic gases and engineered gas systems.

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RELATED IMAGES:

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ABOUT CENTRAL WELDING SUPPLY

Central Welding Supply marked its 35th anniversary in 2010, celebrating a rich history that began in 1975 as a small start-up begun by Founder, Mickey Wilton. Today, Central Welding Supply has grown to nineteen locations, six divisions, two operating companies, and over 180 dedicated and experienced employees. Existing Central Welding Supply retail locations include Anacortes, WA, Ballard, WA, Bellingham, WA, Burlington, WA, Everett, WA, Issaquah, WA, Lynnwood, WA, Port Townsend, WA, Redmond, WA, Renton, WA, Seattle, WA, Smokey Point, WA, Woodinville, WA, and Tukwila, WA.

Wholly-owned subsidiary, Pacific Welding Supplies, operates five locations including: Auburn, WA, Bremerton, WA, Chehalis, WA, Olympia, and Tacoma, WA, as well as the TEC Rental Center in Auburn, WA and a Cylinder Distribution Center in Tacoma, WA.

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AFFILIATED DIVISIONS ON THE INTERNET:

<http://WWW.CENTRALWELDING.COM>

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

<http://WWW.PACIFICWELDING.COM>

Provides information and services for our customers in southern Puget Sound

<http://WWW.WELDERS-DIRECT.COM>

Internet sales division providing welding equipment to home hobbyists and small businesses throughout the United States

<http://WWW.XPRESSCRYOGENICS.COM>

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

<http://WWW.COMPRESSEDGASWESTERN.COM>

Beverage gas division serves customers through all of Central Welding Supply's 19 Puget Sound locations

<http://WWW.CENTRALMEDICALGASES.COM>

Offering an extensive supply of medical and specialty gas products and equipment with a wide range of portable cylinder options, as well as configuration of gas system installations for large scale applications.

<http://WWW.CENTRALSAFETY.COM>

The Central Safety division provides occupational safety products, in addition to resources that support safety management, training, and compliance with safety regulatory standards.

<http://WWW.PRECISIONWELDER.COM>

The Precision Welder Repair Division of Central Welding Supply offers comprehensive repair for a broad range of welding equipment, by factory trained and certified repair technicians.

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