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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**AMERICAN WELDING SOCIETY TO MANAGE AFFAIRS FOR
GASES AND WELDING DISTRIBUTORS ASSOCIATION (GAWDA)**

MIAMI, FLA., June 28, 2010 – The American Welding Society (AWS) and the Gases and Welding Distributors Association (GAWDA) jointly announced today that AWS has been chosen to manage the daily business operations of GAWDA, a national trade association representing distributors and manufacturers of industrial gases and related welding equipment and supplies.

“AWS and GAWDA serve and are committed to the same industry, and we believe this partnership will establish an even stronger relationship with welding distributors, manufacturers and end users,” said Jenny McCall, GAWDA President.

“We are honored to have been chosen by GAWDA to manage their daily business affairs,” said John Bruskotter, AWS President. “With AWS and GAWDA working together, members of both associations will be able to greatly benefit in a number of ways, including welder workforce development, access to more networking and access to on-site training and certifications.”

GAWDA Business Manager Natasha Alexis can be reached at (877) 382-6440. The new association mailing address is: Gases and Welding Distributors Association, 550 NW LeJeune Rd., Miami, FL 33126.

About GAWDA

Founded in 1945, the Gases and Welding Distributors Association (GAWDA) is dedicated to promoting the safe operation and economic vitality of distributors of industrial gases and related welding equipment supplies. For more information, visit the association's website at www.gawda.org

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 63,000 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.”