



For Immediate Release

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Miller Electric Seeks Partnership to Develop Welders for New North

Effort Will Help Fill Need for Additional Welders throughout Region

APPLETON, January 30, 2007 – New North, Inc. partner Miller Electric, the leading manufacturers of welding equipment in the world, recently donated \$1 million to the American Welding Society to address the issue of a shortage of welders in the workforce.

Miller Electric, along with two of their key partners, Airgas and Azco, will be conducting a one day program for several schools in the New North targeted at high school guidance counselors and shop teachers.

The focus of the program will be to help the guidance counselors coach students headed directly to the workforce and demonstrate that welding offers the potential to be a great career.

"We'll give the counselors a chance to do some virtual welding and help them understand where the career path might lead, including the fields of robotics, welding engineering, and operations," said Mike Weller, President Miller Electric Mfg. Co. "We'll also talk about the high demand for welders in our region and the training that is available."

While a specific date hasn't been set, Miller executives are targeting the early summer for the program. Any companies who may be interested in participating are asked to contact New North, Inc. for more information.

"Helping businesses expand and developing the skills of our workers in the New North is key to our growth as a region," said Jerry Murphy, Executive Director of New North, Inc.

New North, Inc. is a regional collaboration effort focused on promoting regional cooperation and economic development in an 18-county region in Northeast Wisconsin. The 18 counties included in the New North are Outagamie, Winnebago, Calumet, Waupaca, Brown, Shawano, Oconto, Marinette, Door, Kewaunee, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Florence, Menominee, and Waushara.

To find out more information about New North, Inc., please visit our website at www.thenewnorth.com.