

Media Contact:

Cindy Wehl
American Welding Society
800-443-9353 Ext. 416
cwehl@aws.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

John C. Ospina Named Executive Director of Gases and Welding Distributors Association

MIAMI, FL – November 9, 2010 – The Gases and Welding Distributors Association (GAWDA) announced today that John C. Ospina has been named Executive Director of GAWDA.

In his new position, Ospina will oversee the day-to-day administration of the association, its programs and serve as the main liaison to sister associations. He will also be providing input to the GAWDA board of directors on issues that may affect the association's mission, programs or future direction.

"John has a solid background in a variety of areas important to GAWDA's mission and growth. His experience includes operations, events, contract negotiations, financial analysis and marketing, and he is experienced in working with volunteer leadership, from board level to grass roots. He is a natural fit for the position of Executive Director of GAWDA," said Lloyd Robinson, GAWDA President.

Prior to accepting the GAWDA position, Ospina has served the American Welding Society (AWS) for nearly 20 years in a variety of management positions. Most recently he was the Director of Conventions & Event Services for the association. AWS presently provides association management services for GAWDA.

A graduate of La Guardia College in New York, Ospina resides in Hollywood, FL, with his wife and two children. His new post becomes official on December 1, 2010.

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. Headquartered in Miami, FL, the association has more than 600 member companies in the United States and Canada and is the industry's foremost resource for safety and compliance information, education, and networking. For more information, visit the association's website at www.gawda.org