



For Immediate Release

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Howco Group Expands Global Presence in Oil and Gas Industry with State of the Art Manufacturing Facility in Malaysia

ISKANDAR, MALAYSIA – September 17, 2013 --- Howco Group, the leading global distributor of raw material for wellhead and completion equipment to the Oil and Gas industry, will expand into the emerging Southeast Asian market with a new advanced manufacturing facility in the Iskandar region of Malaysia. Encompassing nearly 5 acres of land with 80,000 sq ft of manufacturing space, this facility will be the largest single development project ever to be undertaken in the region. Howco and the site developer, Setia Corporation, will commemorate the building of the facility with an official signing ceremony on September 19th.

“Howco Malaysia will become an important part of the Howco Global Supply Chain serving our OEM customers into this dynamic region”, commented John Ferguson, Chief Executive Officer of Howco Group. “We are proud that we will be part of this vibrant country’s supply chain in the oil and gas industry and our plan is to serve markets here in Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Australia and beyond.”

The Howco facility will be located in one of the 5 zones known as Flagship B in Nusajaya, a key component of Iskandar Malaysia with 24,000 acres of contiguous development-ready land. Iskandar Malaysia was designed with investors in mind and is set to become Southern Peninsular Malaysia’s most thriving region where living, entertainment, environment and business seamlessly converge within a bustling and vibrant metropolis.

The Malaysian manufacturing facility will be custom designed to specific requirements and the layout will offer a quick turnaround time; lean and cost effective flow; increased space to hold high value materials and expand sawing capacity; and expansion into further value-added manufacturing processes. The new factory will have a high technology dedicated heat treatment plant to serve the oil and gas industry in Asia, and will be one of the most advanced in this part of the world. The technical skills and expertise required for such advanced heat treat technology will need a local workforce that would be trained and enabled by Howco's experienced personnel.

The new facility will be built within the Setia Business Park, an industrial park being developed by SP Setia Berhad, the largest property developer in Malaysia. Howco was able to proceed with this expansion project with the aid of several local companies and organizations including: the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA), AsiaLink Realty Pte Ltd, SP Setia Bhd Group, RDC Arkitek Sdn Bhd and Opal Corporate Services Sdn Bhd.

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About Howco

Howco Group specializes in offering global solutions to the inventory management of bar, tubular and forged components and is the leading global distributor of raw material along with the ability to expand the supply chain into finished part manufacture for wellhead and completion equipment to the oil and gas industry. Howco provides an innovative approach to supply chain management that delivers industry knowledge and expertise; reduced costs, downtime and inventory; delivery reliability; release of valuable resources; and unrivaled product integrity. With 16 locations, Howco operates globally through subsidiaries in the U.S., Canada, Singapore, Europe and the UK. For more information, visit www.howcogroup.com.

About Sumitomo Corporation

Sumitomo Corporation is a leading general trading company, with 117 locations in 65 countries and 24 locations in Japan. The entire Sumitomo Corporation Group ("the Group") consists of nearly 800 companies and more than 70,000 personnel. The SC business is continuously expanding into a diverse range of products and services. Its core business units are Metal Products; Transportation & Construction Systems; Infrastructure; Media, Network & Lifestyle Retail; Mineral Resource, Energy Chemical & Electronics; General Products & Real Estate; and Financial & Logistics. For more information, visit www.sumitomocorp.co.jp/english/

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