

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kate Eidam Frail
kfrail@robertfalls.com
Joe Mosbrook
jmosbrook@robertfalls.com
Robert Falls & Co. Public Relations
(216) 696-0229

December 2006

**LINCOLN ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT AND WELDING WIRE
USED FOR FREEDOM TOWER**

Cleveland – Lincoln Electric customer Banker Steel Co. LLC, a steel fabricator based in Lynchburg, Va., recently began construction on 27 massive columns, which will serve as the foundation for the 1,776-foot-tall Freedom Tower in New York City.

Banker Steel is welding six-inch plates to the flanges of the I-beam sections, ranging in size from 30 to 56 feet, to increase the strength of the box columns. On the ground in New York, the columns – each weighing approximately 1,500 pounds per foot – will be assembled and extended six stories underground to serve as supports for the tower's above-ground perimeter columns and a steel frame over the subway tracks.

Lincoln Electric's DC600 welding power source and LT-7 welding tractor are being used by Banker Steel for submerged arc welding of the six-inch-thick cover plates. Banker Steel is using Lincoln's 1/8-inch LA75 welding wire with 960 flux.

Banker Steel began work on the columns in mid-November, and the company's facility and work were showcased on December 8 when New York Governor George Pataki and first responders toured the facilities, met with mill workers and held a short ceremony before the columns make their way to New York. Three of the columns will be traveling on flatbeds throughout various parts of the country to give supporters an opportunity to sign and lend their support to the Ground Zero rebuilding effort. The exact route and schedule have yet to be announced. Installation of the columns begins on December 19.

-MORE-

**LINCOLN ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT AND WELDING WIRE
USED FOR FREEDOM TOWER
ADD ONE**

About Lincoln Electric

Lincoln Electric is the world leader in the design, development and manufacture of arc welding products, robotic arc-welding systems, plasma and oxyfuel cutting equipment and has a leading global position in the brazing and soldering alloys market. Headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, Lincoln has 34 manufacturing locations, including operations, manufacturing alliances and joint ventures in 19 countries and a worldwide network of distributors and sales offices covering more than 160 countries. For more information about Lincoln Electric, its products and services, visit www.lincolnelectric.com

###

Lincoln Employees.jpg: Lincoln Electric employees prepare to send out the first consumables to be used on Banker Steel's Freedom Tower project. (l to r) David Likavec, Marie Quintana, Tom Niehus, John M. Stropki, Tim Peck and Brian Jackson.



Banker Steel – Freedom Tower 1.tif: Banker Steel Co. LLC welder Tony Campbell strikes the first arc on the foundation for the Freedom Tower at the company's Lynchburg Va., facility.



Banker Steel – Freedom Tower 2.tif: Pictured in front of the Freedom Tower foundation beams are (l to r) Mike Murphey of Arcet Equipment and Bob Campbell, Don Banker, and Richard Plant of Banker Steel, with Greg McQuaid of Lincoln Electric.

