



## **PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Hytec Automotive receives prestigious TS 16949 certification**

**COLUMBUS, Ohio** - Hytec Automotive (Hytec), a DeBartolo company, announced today that it has raised its standards by attaining the esteemed **TS 16949 certification** from National Quality Assurance USA (NQA) making its products compliant with automotive standards worldwide.

The ISO/TS 16949 standard was developed to decrease the number of standards suppliers to the automotive industry need to be compliant with in order to conduct business internationally. The driving force behind this certification, the International Automotive Task Force, has announced that "ISO/TS 16949 will be accepted as the international equivalent of a host of other standards currently in use, including AVSQ94, EAQF94, QS-9000, and VDA 6.1. The IATF does not intend to replace these other standards, but wants to eliminate multiple registrations whenever possible," states the NQA Web site.

"TS 16949 certification, through NQA Global Assurance, puts Hytec Automotive at the forefront of quality initiatives in the automotive industry. Our stringent manufacturing process is dedicated to continual quality assurance on a daily basis," says Tim Zahler, president of Hytec. "This prestigious certification guarantees our water pump products meet OEM requirements for performance, look and function thus ensuring the highest quality products for our valued aftermarket customers," Zahler concludes.

"There is no greater recognized quality certification in the automotive industry...period! We are very proud to have attained this prestigious honor," adds Bob Van Gorkom, Hytec's vice president of sales and marketing.

The TS 16949 certification is expected to produce the following improvements:

- Improved product and process quality
- Growing confidence in global sourcing
- Better use of supplier resources (particularly to put toward quality activities)
- Common quality system approach in the supply chain (particularly for supplier/subcontractor development)
- Less quality variation
- Increased efficiency, due to reduction of second-party system audits and multiple third-party registrations, one certification is all that is necessary, and common verbiage aids in the understanding of quality requirements.

**DeBartolo in Brief:** The entrepreneurial spirit of DeBartolo never stops evolving. Seeing the potential in others has always been a recognized strength of the company. Thus *DeBartolo Holdings, LLC* was formed to optimize the portfolio of *DeBartolo* affiliate companies, property development and equity interests. The activities consist of investments in equity securities as

well as short and medium term loans for expansion financing, acquisitions, leveraged or management buyouts and recapitalization of promising North American companies.

The DeBartolo portfolio of affiliate companies today includes: *DeBartolo Development, LLC*, a nationwide commercial real estate and residential development company, *Hytec Automotive*, one of the world's foremost suppliers of new water pumps for automobiles and trucks, headquartered in Columbus, Ohio; *Famous Famiglia* an award winning, national retail pizza company, founded and based in New York City, *Ed & Eddie's Ice Cream* a walk-up sundry store in Tampa, Fla. and the most recent affiliate *DeBartolo Sports and Entertainment, LLC*, a leading sports and entertainment travel company which provides its' customers with the ultimate travel experience at the world's leading sporting events.

For more information on the DeBartolo portfolio of companies please visit [www.thedebartologroup.com](http://www.thedebartologroup.com) or call the Tampa corporate headquarters at 813.908.8400.

**About Hytec:** Hytec Automotive is one of the world's foremost suppliers of new water pumps for automobiles, light and heavy-duty trucks, marine, high performance and industrial applications. An engineering-based company, Hytec designs, manufactures, packages and delivers assembled water pumps that are ISO, QS and OEM certified, ensuring first-rate performance, look and fit. For more information, please visit [www.hytecauto.com](http://www.hytecauto.com).

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