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**NEW CYCLONE HE™ JOINS A. O. SMITH'S INNOVATIVE
"FIRST FAMILY" OF COMMERCIAL WATER HEATERS**

90 Percent Thermal Efficiency and High Output for Light-Duty Applications

ASHLAND CITY, Tenn. – May 10, 2006 – A. O. Smith has introduced the Cyclone HE™ light commercial power-vent gas water heater. With 76,000 BTU input and 90 percent thermal efficiency, the new BTX-80 model is the latest innovative addition to the A. O. Smith Cyclone family of products, which includes larger capacity Cyclone XHE® units, with thermal efficiencies of 94 percent and higher.

The new Cyclone HE is equipped with a fully submerged helical-coil heat exchanger, which is the key to advanced A. O. Smith Cyclone technology. This design maximizes the heat transfer surface and prolongs the heat transfer cycle by keeping hot combustion gases inside the tank longer, resulting in 90 percent thermal efficiency. It also permits the unit to operate with 76,000 BTU input, extraordinary water heating power for a unit of its size.

Compared to other light-commercial water heaters, Cyclone HE combines higher input with more efficient combustion to produce more hot water (83 GPH recovery at 100°F temperature rise), with lower operating costs.

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With an installation footprint of just 22 inches, Cyclone HE provides outstanding flexibility for placement of the water heater in light-duty applications, where available as space is often limited. Additional installation flexibility is provided by the power-vent design, which allows combined horizontal or vertical vent runs up to 128 equivalent feet using 4-inch PVC vent pipe. Cyclone HE can also be vented using 2-inch pipe (up to 65 equivalent feet) or 3-inch pipe (up to 25 equivalent feet).

Other Cyclone HE features include an electronic Intelli-Vent® gas control valve, equipped with a premium-grade silicon nitride hot surface ignitor. The Intelli-Vent valve features advanced electronic circuitry for precise temperature control and LED display of temperature settings and diagnostic codes for easy temperature adjustment and troubleshooting.

Because of its 90 percent thermal efficiency, Cyclone HE is a fully condensing water heater, and a condensate elbow, outlet and tubing are provided to make it easy to install the necessary condensate drain during installation. In addition, side-mounted hot and cold recirculating taps allow Cyclone HE to be installed as part of a combination system to provide potable hot water, as well as hot water for forced-air space heating or floor heating applications.

Cyclone HE continues the A. O. Smith tradition of innovation and superior technology which has been reflected in the company's Cyclone XHE offering since 1997. Six Cyclone XHE "BTH" models provide thermal efficiencies of 94 percent or higher, and storage input combinations ranging from 60 gallons/120,000 BTUs through 130-gallons/400,000 BTUs. For extremely high-demand applications, up to four Cyclone XHE units can be installed in a

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manifold configuration to deliver combined storage up to 520 gallons and total input up to nearly 1.2 million BTUs.

All Cyclone XHE models are equipped with advanced electronic controls and can be installed using conventional single-pipe power-venting, or two-pipe sealed combustion power direct-venting with intake and/or vent runs up to 120 equivalent feet using 4-inch PVC pipe, or up to 50 equivalent feet using 3-inch PVC pipe.

Both the new Cyclone HE and all Cyclone XHE water heaters feature A. O. Smith's PermaGlas® Ultra Coat™ glass lining. This A. O. Smith exclusive feature provides superior protection against corrosion for all "water-side" tank surfaces and also protects the interior of the heat exchanger to protect against corrosive flue gas condensate.

Headquartered in Ashland City, Tenn., A. O. Smith offers plumbing contractors and other plumbing professionals an unmatched selection of innovative residential and commercial water heaters and boilers for water heating and hydronic applications, as well as commercial storage tanks up to 10,000 gallons. Innovation in delivering new and better hot water solutions has been at the core of the company's success for 70 years. For more information, visit www.hotwater.com.

** Intelli-Vent® is a registered trademark of Emerson Electric Company.*

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