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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NPGA PARTNERS WITH CASTLE WORLDWIDE FOR CETP ONLINE TESTING

August 24, 2005, Downers Grove, IL...The National Propane Gas Association (NPGA) announces a new partnership with Castle Worldwide (Morrisville, NC) to offer online CETP testing to the propane industry.

“We are excited at the experience, expertise and depth of services offered by Castle in the online testing arena. They have developed dozens of examinations for trade and professional associations and government agencies since their founding in 1987,” announced Val Schall (Alliance Energy LLC, Lebanon, Missouri and NPGA Education, Training and Safety Committee Chairman). “Castle has key capabilities that will provide real value to the propane industry, including a flexible, user friendly and secure testing format, secure e-commerce and unique proctor training tools.”

Industrial Training Services (ITS), Murray, Kentucky, will continue to serve as NPGA’s designated paper-and-pencil testing agency, with candidate records transferred to a single data base to be housed at Castle. A custom, online data reporting system

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will be developed and allow for multiple levels of access by industry members. In addition, integration of candidate data with industry learning management systems (LMS) will be offered in the future on a fee basis. Future online offerings may also include fee-based refresher training exams and practice tests.

The ETS Committee conducted an exhaustive evaluation process under the leadership of Eric Kuster (Tri-Gas & Oil, Federalsburg, MD). “A number of very high quality proposals were received and evaluated, and Castle emerged very early on as a top contender. Their proposal was flexible, thorough and professional and they are as excited as we are about this partnership,” said Kuster.

Online testing will be offered for all CETP certification areas and is expected to be available to coincide with the release of the Propane Education & Research Council (PERC) CETP E-learning material. A direct link will be established from the NPGA website, simplifying the path to CETP certification and allowing for electronic submission of skill assessment verifications. Additional details will be released as they become available and posted on the NPGA website (www.npga.org).

CETP certification has been awarded to more than 100,000 individuals throughout the country and serves as the basis for employee licensing in Vermont, Maryland, Michigan, Maine and New Jersey and is referenced in several more. Certification is available in sixteen areas of specialization, including Delivering Propane

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Using a Bobtail, Plant Operations and Preparing and Installing Vapor Distribution Systems.

NPGA is the national trade association for the propane gas industry with a membership of 3,700 propane producers, wholesalers, and retail marketers, as well as the manufacturers and distributors of associated equipment and appliances. NPGA also represents 38 affiliated state or regional propane gas associations and members in 28 foreign countries. Over 90 percent of the United States' propane supply is produced domestically, and 60 million Americans choose *Propane. Exceptional Energy* as their energy source.

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