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ANIXTER INTERNATIONAL INC.
ENTERS INTO A LETTER OF INTENT TO ACQUIRE THE ASSETS AND
OPERATIONS OF
WORLD CLASS WIRE & CABLE INC.

GLENVIEW, IL, September 9, 2008 – Anixter International Inc. (NYSE: AXE), a leading global distributor of communication products, electrical and electronic wire & cable, fasteners and other small parts, today announced that it had entered into a letter of intent to acquire the assets and operations of World Class Wire & Cable Inc. (“World Class”). Anixter expects to complete the acquisition on or about October 1, 2008 following the finalization of certain contract terms and conditions as well as regulatory approval. Anixter anticipates paying approximately \$62 million in cash and will also assume trade liabilities for all of the assets and operations of World Class.

Based near Milwaukee, Wisconsin, World Class is a valued-added distributor of electrical wire and cable. From its single operating site in Waukesha, Wisconsin, World Class generates approximately \$60 million per year in annualized sales.

Commenting on the acquisition, Bob Eck, President and CEO of Anixter, said, “World Class has an excellent team that has won many awards for its entrepreneurial drive and track record of growth. We believe the World Class team will be an excellent fit with our existing presence in the wire & cable market in the Midwest. This acquisition positions us well to drive even stronger future organic growth.”

Eck continued, “Once completed, we anticipate that this acquisition will be immediately accretive to earnings and add 6 to 8 cents to diluted earnings per share during our first full year of ownership.”

About Anixter

Anixter International is a leading global distributor of communication products, electrical and electronic wire & cable, fasteners and other small parts. The company adds value to the distribution process by providing its customers access to 1) innovative inventory management programs, 2) more than 400,000 products and over \$1 billion in inventory, 3) 214 warehouses with more than 6 million square feet of space, and 4) locations in 248 cities in 50 countries. Founded in 1957 and headquartered near Chicago, Anixter trades on The New York Stock Exchange under the symbol AXE.

Safe Harbor Statement

The statements in this news release that use such words as “believe,” “expect,” “intend,” “anticipate,” “contemplate,” “estimate,” “plan,” “project,” “should,” “may,” or similar expressions are forward-looking statements. They are subject to a number of factors that could cause the company’s actual results to differ materially from what is indicated here. These factors include general economic conditions, technology changes, changes in supplier or customer relationships, commodity price fluctuations, exchange rate fluctuations, new or changed competitors and risks associated with integration of recently acquired companies. Please see the company’s Securities and Exchange Commission filings for more information.

Additional information about Anixter is available on the Internet at
www.anixter.com