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SEL Joins “Ergo Knife” Mission to Improve Quality of Life for Disabled Veterans

PULLMAN, WA — September 4, 2012 — Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. (SEL) today announced that they will work with Quality of Life Plus (QL+) and Cal Poly (California Polytechnic State University) on a manufacturing project designed to improve the lives of disabled veterans.

QL+ is a not-for-profit agency that promotes improving the quality of life for those injured in the line of duty. Working with students from Cal Poly across multiple engineering disciplines, QL+ researches and develops innovations to help wounded heroes overcome the daily challenges of life-altering disabilities.

SEL will lend its manufacturing expertise and plastic injection molding system to aid Cal Poly students in the design and manufacture of the Ergo Knife. The Ergo Knife is an ergonomically designed cutting utensil developed by a U.S. Army occupational therapist for use by those with diminished hand, wrist, or arm functions. SEL will work with students and faculty to improve the design and streamline the manufacturing processes.

“This is a long way from what we do in our mission to make electric power safer, more reliable and more economical,” said Carolyn Hicklin, director of Government Services at SEL. “But we have the skills and equipment to make this project successful, and we are thrilled to be able to help those who have given so much for our country.”

Cal Poly students will travel to SEL manufacturing facilities in Pullman, Washington, and Lewiston, Idaho, to develop a prototype and produce a finished product. SEL will provide some funding for the project and will commit to producing an initial run of the knife.

SEL works frequently with universities in many ways, primarily through engineering programs within the power career fields. This project, though different, is an extension of what they do regularly.

“This will provide experience for students from the design through the manufacturing process of a particular product,” said Dr. Ed Schweitzer, founder and president of SEL. “It’s one more way for us to encourage entrepreneurialism by showing them firsthand how to build a product.”

SEL serves the power industry worldwide through the design, manufacture, supply, and support of products and services for power system protection, monitoring, control, automation, and

metering. SEL offers unmatched local technical support, a worldwide, ten-year product warranty, and a commitment to making electric power safer, more reliable, and more economical.

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