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Press Release

PowerGrid Communications, Inc. and Austin Energy Announce the Showcase of BPL Intelligent Network Services at UTC Expo 2007

Boise, ID and New York, NY - April 26, 2007: **Austin Energy**, one of the nation's largest community owned electric utilities serving over 380,000 retail customers in the City of Austin and in Travis and Williamson Counties, Texas, and **PowerGrid Communications Inc.**, a leading integrator and operator of Broadband over Powerlines (BPL) networks and *Smart Grid* applications, announced today that they will demonstrate one of the largest grouping of BPL network applications and services at the UTC Telecom 2007 Conference and Expo in Austin, Texas from May 6th to 9th. Austin Energy's Broadband over Power Line Application Showcase was established as a joint effort with the City of Austin as part of its BPL pilot program. The pilot program was designed to show both *Smart Grid* applications that enhance the reliability, efficiency and security of Austin Energy's power distribution grid and to deliver broadband services to businesses and homes. The pilot will pass approximately 200 homes and businesses in Austin. The Showcase launched at the UTC Telecom 2007 Conference and Expo will continue and will present new and innovative Smart Grid and consumer broadband services as they are developed.

PowerGrid deployed its GridEye Management System to provide grid and network management for the project and integrated "best of breed" partners products and systems into the network. The Showcase will present:

- Outage Identification and Reporting will notify operators through PowerGrid's GridEye® Management System of interruptions in the power distribution grid and report the status of the BPL network;
- Automated Electric and Water Meter Reading (AMR). The meter data will present power and water usage information to the electric utility and the water department as well as to consumers through PowerGrid's GridEye® ePort consumer energy portal that enables the consumer to track and manage their energy use.
- Demand Response Management that includes BPL enabled meter gateways connected to programmable communicating Thermostats and smart relays to control air conditioners and other high energy consuming appliances. Both the consumer and Austin Energy can respond to peak energy periods to lower power demand and energy cost.
- Video Surveillance through BPL-enabled video cameras placed on the power grid to look into high risk areas and critical equipment like reclosers.

- Street Light Management to remotely control streetlights and detect when they need maintenance and repair..
- Solar Power System that integrates energy storage technologies, load measurement and control devices and renewable energy sources. The system captures and stores solar energy and deploys that power during peak usage periods with reporting of the usage and power storage and usage through the web.
- Line Sag Detection to remotely sense through PowerGrid's GridEye® Management System when distribution lines drop to potentially hazardous heights.
- WiMesh Integration to combine the capabilities of the BPL network with the City of Austin's 45Mb WiMesh network
- Fuel Cell Monitoring to monitor and control this source of alternative energy

For consumers, the Showcase will present:

- Internet Access and standard ISP service
- Voice over IP telephone service
- Security and Intelligent Home service through an always on, monitored wireless system which provides wireless security, home automation/energy consumption optimization and home management

Powergrid has been pleased to join in the development of the UTC 2007 with its group of strategic product, technology and service partners including Sojitz, Corinex Communications, MuNet, Datamatic, GridPoint, SecTec Global, Meridian Energy Systems, Streetlight Vision and NJRC.

About Austin Energy

Austin Energy is the nation's 10th largest community-owned electric utility serving 380,000 customers and a population of more than 800,000. As a publicly owned power company and a city department, Austin Energy has returned \$1.3 billion to the community since 1976 that has helped fund city services such as fire, police, EMS, parks and libraries. Austin Energy's energy generation portfolio includes over 2,600 megawatts (MW) of nuclear, coal, natural gas and renewable energy sources. The utility created the top performing renewable energy program in the nation and owns the nation's first and largest green building program.

About PowerGrid Communications

PowerGrid Communications has emerged as one of the premier developers of Broadband over Powerline networks. Drawing together the most skilled and experienced management team in the industry, PowerGrid delivers *Smart Grid* solutions that enables a utility to increase reliability, efficiency and decrease carbon emissions in an era of scarce energy resources; and can deliver valuable broadband services to every electric outlet for communities and consumers. PowerGrid provides a full spectrum of integration, operations and marketing services including BPL network design, buildout, operations and financing; *Smart Grid* applications and consumer broadband services including Voice Over IP (VOIP), Internet Access (ISP), Video On Demand (VID), security monitoring and video surveillance. PowerGrid is based in Boise, Idaho and New York City. For more information, visit the company's web site at www.powergridcomm.com.