

BREAKING NEWS

Entergy picks PowerGrid for Baton Rouge BPL:

Huge New Orleans-based IOU Entergy hired PowerGrid Communications to deploy a BPL pilot in Baton Rouge, La. PowerGrid is a recent addition to the pool of US-based BPL integrator/operators -- and it's the second firm the IOU hired recently to try BPL, the first being Ambient (BT, 12/05). The PowerGrid project is using Corinex gear and will run over the next year, said the Boise-based BPL firm. PowerGrid was founded last year by some experienced BPL veterans including CEO Chris Britton who led Idaho IOU IdaCorp's BPL efforts at that firm's communications subsidiary IdaComm. But IdaCorp pulled IdaComm out of the BPL business a year ago (BT, 1/30) and Britton left to start PowerGrid (BT, 6/6). Britton and his team at IdaCorp played a significant role in developing the CenterPoint Energy BPL pilot and demonstration center in Houston. IBM is running that deployment now. The Entergy pilot will demo "smart grid" applications and the commercial viability of retail BPL service including a focus on rural areas (www.powergridcomm.com, www.entergy.com).