

ABB Consortium to Fund Advanced SCADA Security Research

Support from Idaho National Labs to build on existing partnership

Houston, Texas, December 11, 2007 – ABB, the leading international power and automation technology group, announced today that twelve of its utility partners have formed a consortium spanning two continents to privately fund advanced research and testing into securing supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems that protect the nation’s electric grid.

“The formation of this consortium demonstrates the importance we have placed on cyber security,” said Stephen Diebold, Manager Real-time Systems at KCP&L and Chairman of the consortium. “Having access to the incredible assets at Idaho National Laboratory (INL) provides the consortium the ability to test a wide range of potential cyber security vulnerabilities.”

SCADA systems are the digital automation devices that operate the nation’s energy infrastructure including the electric power grid and oil and gas refineries. Many SCADA systems are networked to the public Internet and require cyber security features beyond what is generally installed during production. The research and testing will be conducted by control system engineers and cyber researchers at the U.S. Department of Energy’s Idaho National Laboratory.

ABB was the first SCADA vendor to partner with the Department of Energy’s Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (DOE/OE) through its National SCADA Test Bed (NSTB) program presence at INL. Work began in 2003 to perform cyber security assessments for ABB Network Manager SCADA/EMS product. Results from that initiative have led to recommendations for security upgrades and improvements, many which have already been implemented.

“ABB’s ongoing collaboration with DOE/OE’s NSTB has been critical to our continued improvements in providing the best security to customers,” said Phil Beekman, EMS Security Coordinator in the Network Management unit of ABB. “At every stage, DOE/OE has encouraged utility participation, but this consortium goes well beyond our previous efforts. It provides the opportunity for the end users to control the topics to be investigated. The expertise in this group will enable the research activities to be more relevant and productive than ever before, and we thank DOE/OE and INL for their continued support.”

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The new research will focus on validating remediation of issues discovered in previous DOE/OE NSTB-funded tests on successive releases of the Network Manager product, and will investigate additional security concerns that the consortium members and ABB wish to explore.

The consortium partners, representing nearly 45 million customers across the U.S. and Australia, include the following:

- Austin Energy
- Detroit Edison
- Indianapolis Power & Light Company
- ITC Transmission
- Kansas City Power & Light Company (KCP&L)
- LCRA
- New York Independent System Operator (NYISO)
- Snowy Hydro Limited
- Tri-State G&T Association, Inc.

ABB will supply the hardware, software and technical support necessary for the tests, and will use its Cooperative Research & Development Agreement with DOE and INL to facilitate the research effort. DOE will support this effort by making available the significant resources of the Idaho National Laboratory. DOE/OE's NSTB program will provide seed funding to jump-start this important industry initiative.

ABB (www.abb.com) is a leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility and industry customers to improve performance while lowering environmental impact. The ABB Group of companies operates in around 100 countries and employs over 111,000 people. The company's North American operations, headquartered in Norwalk, Connecticut, employ about 12,000 people in 20 manufacturing and other major facilities.