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IEEE P1901 BROADBAND OVER POWER LINE STANDARD ENTERS 30-DAY PERIOD OF SPONSOR BALLOTING

Key Smart Grid standard reaches final balloting step

PISCATAWAY, N.J., USA, MARCH 9, 2010 – IEEE, the world's leading professional association for the advancement of technology, today announced that sponsor balloting on the draft IEEE P1901 Broadband over Power Line (BPL) standard is open through April 8, 2010. IEEE P1901 will introduce a new standard for secure, high-speed communications via electric power lines, a key enabling capability for the Smart Grid worldwide.

IEEE P1901 defines data distribution among all classes of BPL devices—for the Smart Grid, first-mile/last-mile service connections, in-building LANs, vehicle platforms and other security-sensitive applications. Driven by the requirements of diverse end users, the standard is designed to ensure efficient use of the power-line communications channel, define coexistence and interoperability among multi-vendor BPL devices, deliver sufficient bandwidth and support Quality of Service (QoS).

The Smart Grid—a next-generation, managed electrical power system—leverages increased use of communications and information technology in the generation, delivery and consumption of electrical energy. BPL is expected to emerge as a critical driver for the Smart Grid worldwide. Consequently, IEEE P1901 is expected to benefit Smart Grid-related enterprises, such as smart-meter providers and home-appliance manufacturers, and the new standard is targeted for deployment across a range of industries, including utilities, broadband and Internet service providers, consumer electronics manufacturing, transportation and telecommunications.

Having completed development within the IEEE P1901 Work Group, the draft standard is now under review by a balanced array of entities who responded to an open, worldwide invitation. After sponsor balloting is successfully completed, IEEE P1901 will enter final review by the IEEE Standards Association (IEEE-SA) before publication.

“More than 92 corporations, trade associations and universities have participated in the standard’s evolution through the IEEE P1901 Work Group, and we have now reached the final balloting step

for the world's most innovative, mature and unified BPL standard," said Jean-Philippe Faure, chair of the IEEE P1901 Work Group. "Smart Grid implementation is intensifying worldwide, so the arrival of IEEE P1901 could not be more timely."

Draft 3.0 of IEEE P1901 is available from the IEEE Shop at shop.ieee.org.

For more information on the IEEE P1901 Work Group, please visit <http://grouper.ieee.org/groups/1901/>.

About the IEEE Standards Association

The IEEE Standards Association, a globally recognized standards-setting body, develops consensus standards through an open process that engages industry and brings together a broad stakeholder community. IEEE standards set specifications and best practices based on current scientific and technological knowledge. The IEEE-SA has a portfolio of over 900 active standards and more than 400 standards under development. For information on the IEEE-SA, see: <http://standards.ieee.org>.

About the IEEE

IEEE is the world's largest professional association advancing innovation and technological excellence for the benefit of humanity. Through its more than 375,000 members in 160 countries, IEEE is a leading authority on a wide variety of areas ranging from aerospace systems, computers and telecommunications to biomedical engineering, electric power and consumer electronics. Dedicated to the advancement of technology, IEEE publishes 30 percent of the world's literature in the electrical and electronics engineering and computer science fields, and has developed nearly 900 active industry standards. The organization annually sponsors more than 850 conferences worldwide. Additional information about IEEE can be found at <http://www.ieee.org>.

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