



Press release

ABB Partners with Elster in Advanced Grid Infrastructure Initiative

Initiative to advance AMI to realize smart grid of the future

Raleigh, North Carolina – January 23, 2008. Elster Electricity, part of Elster Group, a world leader in Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) and integrated metering and utilization solutions to the gas, electricity and water industries, today announces that ABB has joined the Elster-led Advanced Grid Infrastructure (AGI) Initiative.

The AGI Initiative is a collaborative effort between utilities, Elster and key technology partners to realize innovative AMI-based solutions for the grid of the future. AGI will provide the utility industry with a powerful set of hardware, software and communications solutions needed in the critical area of network automation. This initiative will allow Elster, in collaboration with its partners, to offer standards-based solutions that enable utilities to improve the operation of the electrical network by leveraging their AMI investment. Elster, a member of EPRI's IntelliGrid program, is committed to the vision of a smarter power grid.

ABB, a global leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility and industry customers to improve their performance, will work with Elster Electricity on innovative applications that utilize AMI information to improve network performance to realize the vision of an efficient smart power grid.

Mark Munday, Elster Electricity president and CEO said, "We are excited to have ABB join AGI. ABB's experience in power systems and our EnergyAxis System deployments are significant resources for achieving the utility of the future. Elster is committed to partnering with others to provide innovative solutions to enable the power grid to operate more efficiently."

"AMI lays the technological groundwork for a modern smart grid, which is something ABB is committed to developing," said Enrique Santacana, president and CEO of ABB Inc. "Helping our utility customers improve operational efficiency and grid reliability is part of our core focus."

Elster's proven EnergyAxis System delivers advanced AMI solutions for the electricity, gas and water industries. Elster has the largest two-way mesh radio frequency AMI deployment in the world that delivers complex billing information, and performs disconnects and reconnects on a daily basis. Elster has already shipped more than 1.3 million two-way EnergyAxis smart meters.



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About ABB

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 about 111,000 people.

About Elster Electricity

Elster Electricity is a leading provider of electricity metering products and services throughout the world. Located in Raleigh, North Carolina, Elster Electricity offers integrated, cost-effective solutions including smart meters, communication solutions, and metering automation systems for residential, commercial, and industrial applications. Elster Electricity serves customers through a global sales force. For additional information, visit www.elsterelectricity.com.

About Elster Group

Elster Group is a world leader in Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) and integrated metering and utilization solutions to the gas, electricity and water industries. Elster's high quality AMI and AMR products, systems, and solutions reflect the wealth of knowledge and experience gained from over 170 years of dedication to measuring precious resources and energy. Elster provides world class solutions and advanced technologies to help utilities more easily, efficiently and reliably obtain and use advanced metering intelligence to improve customer service, enhance operational efficiency, and increase revenues. Elster's AMI solutions enable utilities to cost-effectively generate, deliver, manage and conserve the life-essential resources of gas, electricity and water. The group has over 7,500 staff and operations in 38 countries, focused in North and South America, Europe, and Asia. For additional information, visit www.elster.com.