



U.S. Department of Energy Recognizes Itron Smart Grid Solutions for Their Contribution to a Clean Energy Economy

LIBERTY LAKE, Wash., Jan 11, 2010 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Itron (NASDAQ:ITRI) smart grid solutions have been recognized for their contribution to a robust clean energy economy by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The acknowledgement came as part of President Obama's announcement to award \$2.3 billion in Recovery Act Advanced Energy Manufacturing Tax Credits for clean energy manufacturing projects across the United States.

The tax credit award supports Itron's strategy to increase manufacturing capacity in its U.S.-based facilities including its smart meter plant in Oconee, S.C. Increased demand for Itron's advanced smart meters has allowed Itron to employ several hundred people in the production facility. Itron's advanced smart metering/smart grid solution, OpenWay^(R), supports a clean energy economy by aiding in carbon reduction, while enabling renewable power infrastructure, system efficiency and consumer involvement. The OpenWay CENTRON^(R) meter is one of the first smart meters to provide built-in, high-speed two-way communications, giving consumers more choice regarding their energy usage and allowing utilities to provide higher reliability at lower cost.

By empowering customers with energy information, with the number of meters that Itron can produce and deploy annually, Itron estimates electricity could be reduced by approximately 1.7 million MWh per year, thereby avoiding 1.02 million metric tons carbon dioxide (CO₂) annually.

"The reduction in carbon emissions from the adoption of smart metering cannot be overlooked," said Malcolm Unsworth, Itron president and chief executive officer. "Additionally, the positive impact of manufacturing these important technologies in America is very important to our economy and our environment. We commend the administration for supporting domestic manufacturing of advanced clean energy technologies."

A variety of technologies were represented in the grant issuance. Itron was the only smart metering manufacturer recognized among several smart grid vendors. In total, 183 projects across 43 states were recognized for their potential to create tens of thousands of high quality clean energy jobs. The DOE received requests for roughly three times the available funding for the credit. These credits, along with other Recovery Act investments, are expected to drive significant growth in the renewable energy and clean technology manufacturing sectors and enable the United States to be the global leader in these markets.

The credits were supported by several U.S. senators from states where Itron has manufacturing facilities including Maria Cantwell, (D-Wash), the U.S. Senate's leading smart grid proponent; Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.); Amy Klobuchar, (D-Minn.); and Patty Murray, (D-Wash). In a letter of support addressed to DOE Secretary Steven Chu the senators stated, "The interests of our states and the nation are best served when federal tax policy encourages domestic manufacturers like Itron to innovate, expand, and reinvest in their product lines and U.S. manufacturing facilities."

Itron's Oconee Manufacturing Facility is the third-largest employer in Oconee County with approximately 600 full and part-time employees. Additionally, research and development, engineering, product marketing and production of several lines of electricity meters reside within the facility.

About Itron:

Itron Inc. is a leading technology provider to the global energy and water industries. Our company is the world's leading provider of intelligent metering, data collection and utility software solutions, with nearly 8,000 utilities worldwide relying on our technology to optimize the delivery and use of energy and water. Our products include electricity, gas, water and heat meters, data collection and communication systems, including automated meter reading (AMR) and advanced metering infrastructure (AMI); meter data management and related software applications; as well as project management, installation, and consulting services. To know more, start here: www.itron.com.

SOURCE: Itron

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