



DTE Energy, Comverge and Itron Lead the Way in Investigating the Impact of PEV Charging on the Smart Grid

Companies Demonstrate Ability to Disable Charging in Response to Load Control Events, Pricing Signals

LIBERTY LAKE, Wash., Nov 18, 2009 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Itron Inc. (NASDAQ: ITRI), in conjunction with DTE Energy Co. (DTE), and Comverge Inc. (NASDAQ: COMV), today announced the ability of Itron's OpenWay^(R) smart grid technology to help the utility investigate the effect of plug-in electric vehicle (PEV) charging on its operations. This collaboration will help extend the value of the smart grid by giving consumers a mechanism for participation.

The functionality was proven as part of a recent technical demonstration by DTE Energy as part of The Business of Plugging In: A Plug-In Electric Vehicle Conference held in Detroit. At the conference, the OpenWay system processed load control events issued from Comverge's Web-based demand management software platform, Apollo^(TM), to a PEV and disabled charging for the duration included in the message. OpenWay was also able to process pricing messages from Apollo. When pricing exceeded a designated threshold, the PEV ceased charging until the final price fell below threshold, upon which it resumed charging.

In order for consumers to understand their electricity usage and the impact of charging their PEV, a utility's smart grid system must be able to track the total amount of electricity consumed in a billing period and precisely when that electricity was used. This time based tracking is referred to as interval data or load profiling and is a core capability of the OpenWay system.

"Since the future supply-demand balance requires addressing both sides of the equation, the smart grid must provide the mechanism for participation by consumers," said Bill Cloutier, AMI manager for DTE Energy. "Working jointly with Itron and Comverge, we now have a more realistic picture of how PEVs may affect our grid. The goal is to test this new technology and share the information with our customers, providing them the opportunity to make more informed decisions about how and when they charge their PEVs and ultimately how they can use the information to lower their electric bill."

The integration relies on the ZigBee^(R) Smart Energy Profile, allowing for seamless communication between the utility and PEVs, without the need for a broadband connection. In this case, the PEV was equipped with charging controls that contain a ZigBee card to enable meter-to-car communication.

"This demonstration is another realization in the promise of Apollo software and its flexibility in accommodating future smart grid developments such as PEVs as they become part of our utility customers' portfolio of assets," said Michael D. Picchi, Comverge interim president and chief executive officer. "Working together, we are moving closer toward making the smart grid vision a reality."

The Business of Plugging In conference, which took place Oct. 19 - 21, was co-hosted by DTE Energy, General Motors and the University of Michigan. This first-ever conference brought together vehicle manufacturers, suppliers, energy companies, government agencies, schools and researchers to address the many opportunities and challenges involved in bringing PEVs to the mass market. The conference was made possible by a grant from the Michigan Public Service Commission.

Itron is providing DTE Energy with OpenWay smart grid technology to automate a total of 2.6 million electric meters and 700,000 natural gas meters over the next six years.

"This full end-to-end functionality is just one aspect of the power of our OpenWay smart grid system," said Philip Mezey, Itron North America senior vice president and chief operating officer. "With other market leaders such as DTE Energy and Comverge and their determination to stay on top of emerging trends and policies, the potential positive impact on consumers and the excitement for this advanced technology continues to grow."

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.

About DTE Energy:

DTE Energy (NYSE:DTE) is a Detroit-based diversified energy company involved in the development and management of energy-related businesses and services nationwide. Its operating units include Detroit Edison, an electric utility serving 2.2 million customers in Southeastern Michigan, MichCon, a natural gas utility serving 1.2 million customers in Michigan and other non-utility, energy businesses focused on power and industrial projects, coal and gas midstream, unconventional gas production and energy trading. Information about DTE Energy is available at www.dteenergy.com.

About Comverge:

Comverge, with over 3,300 megawatts of clean energy capacity under management, is a leading provider of clean energy solutions that improve grid reliability and supply electric capacity on a more cost-effective basis than conventional alternatives by reducing base load and peak load energy consumption. For more information, visit www.comverge.com.

SOURCE: Itron Inc.

Itron Communications and Marketing

Kim Papich, 509-891-3590

kim.papich@itron.com

or

For DTE Energy:

Len Singer, DTE Energy External Communications

313-235-8809

singerl@dteenergy.com

or

For Comverge:

Kristin Mastrandrea, Comverge Communications Manager

973-434-7157

Copyright Business Wire 2009