

Power Plus Communications blazes a trail for smart cities in Mannheim

Broadband powerline provider extends network for groundbreaking German project

London, 13th July 2010. Mannheim, Germany's first smart city, is working with Power Plus Communications (PPC), one of Europe's most advanced communications provider for smart grids, to connect every household in the city to its cutting-edge smart energy network.

PPC's broadband powerline (BPL) technology, which turns existing electricity grids into an innovative internet protocol-based communication platform, forms the critical communications infrastructure to support local utility ambitious smart grid strategy. With BPL coverage already at around 90 per cent of the city, the complete roll-out of the technology makes Mannheim the first European smart city to enjoy full coverage across its entire customer base.

BPL is also at the heart of the Modellstadt Mannheim (MoMa) project, which focuses on integrating a high load of intermittent energy sources and de-centralised generation into the existing electricity grids of large cities in a bid to boost efficiency and raise awareness of renewables among consumers. It is hoped that the MoMa project will encourage the public to take personal responsibility for their power consumption. The first households are already benefiting from new technologies including the Energy Butler gateway, which monitors the grid to obtain real-time pricing information from the utility and connects many household appliances including dishwashers, fridges, and tumble driers. The gateway then relays dynamic pricing information back to the consumer, giving users greater control over their energy use, as well as relieving stress from the grid by shifting the use of certain appliances to off-peak periods. Business and industrial clients are connected into the project with their cooling facilities and air conditioning systems.

PPC is lending its backing to other pioneering projects within Mannheim, including various smart metering projects and a distributed and micro-generation project where the amount of energy lost in transmission is dramatically reduced due to the close

proximity of the generation site to the end-user. PPC is also involved in the roll-out of low-carbon, energy-saving technologies such as solar PV panels, micro-CHPs and heat pumps. The use of CCTV video surveillance to protect installations and assets across the city along with public lightning control is also running over PPC's BPL systems.

Eugen Mayer, COO of PPC, comments: "We are very excited to be so closely involved in all of these innovative projects. The first homes using the Energy Butler gateway already have the smart grid technology up and running and are testing the smart city system with great success, but this is just the start. As we seamlessly expand our network to incorporate all properties in the district, Mannheim is moving one step closer to our goal of a city-wide smart grid roll-out."

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Note to editors:

Broadband powerline technology is key to the success of smart metering and smart grids. It uses existing power networks and converts them into IP-based real-time communications platforms to create instant, cost-effective area-wide smart energy networks.

These networks are at the heart of smart metering and intelligent production, as well as load and storage management. They will help provide the information needed to make informed decisions on energy efficiency, the increased use of renewable energy and electric mobility.

About PPC

Power Plus Communications is Europe's leading supplier of broadband powerline communication systems (BPL) for smart grids. Pioneers of BPL technology, PPC has already connected more than 300,000 households with projects in Mannheim, Dresden and Linz among others. The company was founded in 2001 as a spin off of MVV Energie and ABB, but is now wholly independent. It has received funding from Climate Change Capital Private Equity, a trust fund of the British Climate Change Capital Group. Further partners of the Power Plus Communications AG are management and employees.

For more information please go to: www.ppc-ag.com

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