



10 June 2009

**CITIPOWER AND POWERCOR AUSTRALIA ANNOUNCES PARTNERS FOR  
A\$300M OF AGREEMENTS TO ROLL OUT SMART METERS**

CitiPower and Powercor Australia today announced its partners in agreements worth more than A\$300m to support the installation of more than 1.1 million “smart meters” to homes and businesses across its Victorian electricity distribution networks.

The partnerships are with smart meter manufacturers Landis+Gyr and PRI Australasia for the provision of smart meters, and with Silver Spring Networks for the provision of network infrastructure, communications devices and software that will connect the smart meters to CitiPower and Powercor’s electricity distribution networks.

The agreements combined represent the largest single commitment so far to the Victorian Government’s Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project.

The partnerships were formally announced by Victorian Minister for Energy and Resources, The Hon. Peter Batchelor MP in Melbourne today.

CitiPower and Powercor Chief Executive Officer Shane Breheny said “CitiPower and Powercor Australia has undertaken an extensive assessment of the technology options to meet the Government’s objectives. We believe the ‘IP-based network’ communications technology developed by Silver Spring Networks, working in conjunction with the new meters developed by Landis + Gyr and PRI, provides the most advanced, reliable and efficient solution to meet the needs of the Victorian community.

“These combined agreements mark a major milestone in a project that will ultimately transform the way consumers use and think about electricity, and which will allow electricity distributors to manage the electricity supply more effectively and efficiently for decades to come,” he said.

The IP-based network (or ‘mesh radio’) solution developed by SSN allows meter and other data to be relayed between meters and then through telecommunications networks, to be collected centrally by CitiPower and Powercor for provision to electricity retailers. Silver Spring Networks is responsible for the supply of network infrastructure, and the communications devices and software inside the meters for the program.

Silver Spring Networks Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President, Scott Lang said “We are proud to provide the communications infrastructure to enable smart metering for millions of Victorians. This is the future of the energy industry worldwide, where electricity distributors deliver the tools to achieve efficiencies and empower customers.”

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Mr Breheny also announced that Landis+Gyr and PRI have been chosen by CitiPower and Powercor to provide the 1.1 million smart meters the business will be rolling out across its two distribution networks.

“We believe these two providers have the proven credentials to meet our requirements in for a rollout that is at the very forefront of advanced electricity supply and consumption management worldwide. We are delighted to have partners who are able to provide competitive products backed by the organisational capabilities and customer focus required to meet the rollout standards and timeframes” he said.

Jon Stretch, Executive Vice-President (Asia Pacific) for Landis+Gyr, said “As a worldwide leader in electricity metering, we are delighted to support CitiPower and Powercor Australia’s participation in Victoria’s world leading AMI Project, by providing electricity consumers with the technology that will support Victoria’s power infrastructure for years to come.”

Michael Guy, Managing Director PRI Australasia said “PRI's Smart Metering solutions in today's energy conscious world provide confidence and flexibility for leading electricity distribution networks like CitiPower and Powercor Australia, and their customers. PRI is very pleased to be a key supplier of smart meters in Victoria.”

CitiPower and Powercor expect to begin installing the smart meters late this year, and to complete the project by the end of 2013.

“This announcement marks a significant milestone in a long term project. We are on track to meet the Government’s timetable, and deliver a cutting edge solution that will empower energy consumers to better manage their energy consumption,” said Mr Breheny.

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