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**For Immediate Release**

**Whitby Hydro first in world to pilot Web-based SCADA concept from  
GE Power Management**

*enerVista.com delivers a revolutionary Internet approach to substation management*

**Markham, ON, September 6, 2000** -- GE Power Management is pleased to announced that Whitby Hydro in Whitby, Ontario, Canada is the first utility in the world to pilot a revolutionary new Web-based substation management concept called enerVista.com. enerVista.com is a package of Internet-based services from GE that allows small to mid-sized utilities access to SCADA level monitoring and control, as well as a variety of substation administration functions, over the Internet at a fraction of the cost of more conventional systems.

The pilot site for the Whitby project is Scugog Hydro, a three-substation utility 12 miles north Whitby, that has just recently entered into a services agreement with Whitby Hydro to provide billing, maintenance, construction, customer service and buying services.

“Many utilities are simply not in a position to stand alone in a deregulated market, and are left with the alternative to sell, amalgamate or partner with other utilities,” explains Jim Lavelle, General Manager for Whitby Hydro. “With enerVista.com, we are able to work with Scugog Hydro to provide inexpensive, real-time access to our services and technology, while at the same time, allow them to maintain their identity and commission.”

Norris Woodruff, general manager for GE Power Management, confirms, “Regional electric co-ops and standalone utilities are markets that are generally ignored because they simply don’t have the budgets to engage in high level automation systems, nor do they have the manpower to hire the

specialists they need. With the power that the Web can bring, utilities such as Whitby Hydro can, for a monthly fee, have access to the technology and specialists at an affordable rate with no capital outlay. They can also have around-the-clock monitoring and control without having to invest in the resources normally associated with full-scale substation automation.”

Woodruff says that Whitby’s arrangement with Scugog Hydro made them an ideal choice for a pilot project. “Scugog not only provided substations, but a whole town to work with. In addition, the engineers at Whitby Hydro are part of a highly skilled team with a broad-based vision of what the Internet can bring to substation automation.”

### **The communications link**

A critical part of the Whitby Hydro setup in Scugog is the installation of a Universal Relay (UR) product from GE Power Management at each substation site. This PC-based relay is the Internet appliance that provides the communications link via modem over the medium of choice (i.e. telephone, cable, wireless or dedicated line). Data is housed on a GE server to allow Whitby Hydro technicians around-the-clock access to data via the Web from any location in the world.

Setting up the system can be accomplished in a matter of days. For each substation, a UR is housed in a weathertight box with a cable and/or phone modem, heater/fan and UPS, and mounted external to the switchgear. Once installed, it collects and stores information from the substation equipment and devices for the engineers to interrogate from a central site, their laptops or any other PC device.

“With Web-based access, the capabilities can reach far beyond simple monitoring and control” explains Kevin Whitehead, Engineering Supervisor at Whitby Hydro. “Since the UR interfaces like a PC, we can develop virtually any application that the Internet has to offer, from data acquisition and control to remote paging to visual monitoring using Web-cams. The set-up also provides the ability to provide remote operations for circuit load transfers and switching applications. You can also set it up to send alarms to a pager or cell phone. Once you establish the limits, you can have alarms on anything.”

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All three Scugog sites were designed, installed and up and running within a matter of six weeks. Unlike conventional SCADA, no programming was required - only simple menu driven configuration. "Implementing a SCADA system that could deliver similar functionality as this set-up would have taken months and months of work and would have been complex and specifically tailored for the utility," says Whitehead. "It would also have taken vast quantities of money which is simply not available to small utilities. Having the communications links over the Web, and the data acquisition hosted by an outside vendor, we know we can always have the most up to date equipment at a reduced capital cost, and expand our capabilities to a wider market. We can now monitor projects half a world away."

### **About enerVista.com**

enerVista.com is a suite of Internet-based services to which users can subscribe. Collectively these services provide many of the services of a complex enterprise management system at a fraction of the cost.

enerVista.com services include:

- **eSCADA** (includes **eMONITOR**, **eCONTROL**, **eENGINEER**) for 24/7 protection, monitoring and optional control of all substations.
- **eEXPERT**, a comprehensive database of public documents and Internet links to other web sites of standards, application papers, notes and diagnosis guides.
- **eREPORTER**, to create reports from collected or manually entered data.
- **eSCHEDULER**, to automate repetitive manual procedures by allowing single entry of details for planned or emergency work to capture all activities and minimize omissions.
- **eADMINISTRATOR** to track all equipment for the entire utility distribution network.
- **eLIBRARY**, for access and organization of stored documents.
- **eCUSTOMER** to communicate directly with their customers over the Internet to sell energy, provide reliability statistics or promote new services.

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“Because enerVista.com is a Web-based service, and the UR is a digital-based technology, the possibilities for this service are virtually endless,” says Woodruff. “The pilot projects we have worked on include sites in Ontario, New York State and Tennessee with applications evolving to meet the specific needs of each utility.”

### **About Whitby Hydro**

Established in 1903, Whitby Hydro operates and maintains seven 44kV subtransmission circuits, 11 distribution substations and 38 distribution feeders. The utility also provides engineering, design/build, maintenance and system analysis services for a number of private companies, as well as design and construction services for co-generation facilities. Today it services 25,000 customers, in addition to the 2,200 residents of Scugog.

### **About GE Power Management**

GE Power Management, based in Markham, Ontario, Canada, specializes in the design, manufacture, sales and service of protection, metering and control equipment as well as automation systems for generation, transmission, distribution and for industrial plants around the world. For more information on enerVista.com visit [www.enerVista.com](http://www.enerVista.com). For information on the UR or other GE Power Management products and services, visit <http://www.GEindustrial.com/pm>