

## **CURRENT CEO CASEY TALKS ABOUT SGIG, GREENBEAT 2009 AWARD**

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About a dozen Smart Grid Investment Grant winners are considering contracts with CURRENT Group, its CEO told us yesterday in an exclusive interview. Potential clients include IOUs, municipals and even co-ops, said Tom Casey.

“We’re privately held, so I can’t give numbers, but let’s say the SGIG program has the potential to be a significant accelerant to our revenues,” he added.

The 150-person smart grid integrator/operator and hardware/software firm could get a boost from its product offering, System Optimization, being named one of the Top 10 innovations in the smart grid arena by VentureBeat’s GreenBeat 2009 executive conference in San Mateo, Calif, this week.

System Optimization monitors and adjusts electric distribution to cut energy requirements, the firm told the press yesterday. The system automatically adjusts utility devices to achieve the desired level of optimization, combining sensing technology, two-way high-speed communications and monitoring-and-analysis software, said the firm.

Its initial target for load savings was 3-5% but early results exceed those levels, said CURRENT. The product is based on open standards, Casey added.

System Optimization was born as CURRENT Group phased out of efforts to deliver BPL to retail customers, Casey reported.

“The electric utilities weren’t that enthusiastic about going into the telecom business, so about three years ago, we derived some services for those utilities themselves. That evolved into System Optimization,” he added.