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CURRENT DEMOS SMART TRANSFORMER STATION AT UTC HUNGARY EVENT

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Smart Grid Today

CURRENT Group is demonstrating at the European Utility Telecom Council annual meeting in Budapest, Hungary, this week what it is calling the industry's first comprehensive smart grid portfolio specifically designed to solve distribution and metering challenges in European, Australian and Asia Pacific utility grid architectures. The product is called *CURRENT* Smart Transformer Station (STS) and it provides a flexible, open and cost effective suite of products to solve real-world smart grid problems facing utilities worldwide, said the firm.

The STS portfolio, noted CURRENT, addresses four main ingredients of comprehensive smart grid deployments:

- **Communications** -- enabling low-cost robust communications to and within primary and secondary transformer stations through a modular, secure, upgradeable communications gateway solution;
- **Sensing and Analytics** -- providing transparency to grid asset conditions through cost effective, easy to deploy, remotely managed sensing solutions;
- **Metering** -- addressing meter communications and collection capabilities through fully open and interoperable meter concentrator solutions, and
- **Device, Data and Event Management** -- providing user-based remote visibility into all aspects of smart grid operations through software systems tailored specifically to utility networking and telecom, distribution engineering and customer related personnel, said CURRENT.

Utilities worldwide face serious challenges in running distribution networks "in an environment of aging infrastructure, retiring workforces, centralized and distributed renewable energy sources and increased desire from customers to have visibility into their energy consumption," Tom Willie, CURRENT Senior VP of Products and Technology, told the press.

"These challenges will require them to invest in solutions that provide for greater connectivity and control over grid devices, greater transparency into grid conditions and greater responsiveness in communicating and providing information to their end users of electricity." STS "is tailored to specifically provide utilities with a solution to these expanding challenges."

STS consists of hardware and supporting software systems.

CURRENT's STS demo in Budapest is within a live network of the local utility ELMŰ in transformer stations near the conference venue. The utility is the first to install STS and believes "communications, transformer supervision and metering will play a critical role in creating the smart grid," Orlay Imre, of ELMŰ's Network Optimization Division told the press yesterday.

CURRENT will expand the live demonstration to a full trial installation during the coming weeks and will work closely with ELMU in customizing the system to best suit ELMU's smart grid needs.

"Hungary and ELMŰ as well are preparing the implementation of smart metering and smart grid. In this process this opportunity with CURRENT is a great help for us and we are thankful for that," he added.