Siemens Canada opens smart grid centre of competence in Fredericton, New Brunswick

Fredericton, NB, January 31, 2013

New office and hiring support multi-year partnership with NB Power

New Brunswick Premier David Alward, NB Power CEO Gäetan Thomas and Siemens Canada CEO Robert Hardt were among those in attendance today at the official opening of Siemens’ newest home in Fredericton, NB. The location will house both a smart grid centre of competence (COC) and a research & development (R&D) centre and is a milestone in Siemens’ multi-year partnership with NB Power, announced in the summer of 2012.

The collaboration between Siemens and NB Power, involving a comprehensive Smart Grid Reduce and Shift Demand (RASD) modernization plan, will involve investment in technology and engage customers, offering businesses and residents more choice and control over their energy consumption. Using Smart Grid Compass methodology, Siemens will support NB Power in developing an energy road map for the next decade and beyond. Design and rollout of smart grid software will take place at the new Fredericton facility, located at 46 Creweher Lane, Knowledge Park 4.

Approximately 23 employees have been hired at the facility to-date, of which 15 are R&D hires. Invest NB has committed to support the hiring of a total of 25 R&D employees. The majority of new employees are local hires, aligning with Siemens’ strategy to bring the best of global smart grid knowledge together with local expertise from New Brunswick’s impressive talent pool.

Siemens’ plans for 2013 include additional hiring, working with NB Power to further develop its RASD plan and implement basic IT systems for smart grid applications, as well as develop partnerships with local universities.

“This centre of competence is a milestone for Siemens from a global perspective, and represents our commitment to furthering research and deployment of smart grid technologies in Canada. Together with NB Power we’re creating what we are confident will be a global innovation showcase in energy efficiency.”

– Robert Hardt, President and CEO, Siemens Canada

“The establishment of Siemens Canada in Fredericton is exciting news for the entire province as we work to build our R&D capacity while modernizing New Brunswick’s electricity system. These new positions will also add expertise and growth in the area of information and communications technology, one of our province’s target sectors in Growing Together – An Economic Development Action Plan for New Brunswick.”

– The Honourable David Alward, Premier of New Brunswick

“Partnering with Siemens on smart grid provides us with the opportunity to recreate our relationship with our customers. We want to place our customers at the centre of our electrical system and work with them to modernize the way they use energy in the future. The introduction of smart grid initiatives will provide choices for customers to control their future electricity cost and will have a positive impact on our rates, on the provincial economy, as well as the environment.”

– Gäetan Thomas, CEO, NB Power

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