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**HD SUPPLY UTILITIES OFFERS CARINA TECHNOLOGY'S ENERGY INTELLIGENCE™
SOLUTION BASED ON INDUSTRY-TRUE IP STANDARDS TO ELECTRIC UTILITIES**

**“Out-of-the-Box Ready” Hardware and Software Products and Applications Deliver
Immediate Deployment, Performance and Payback Benefits**

Provides Strategic Migration Path from AMR/AMI to Future Smart Grid Initiatives

ORLANDO, Fla./HUNTSVILLE, Ala. – December 14, 2009 – HD Supply Utilities, North America's largest electric utilities distributor, announced that it has partnered with Carina Technology, a leading broadband energy management services company with solutions in more than 100 U.S. utilities, to distribute Carina's Energy Intelligence (EI™) Solution to electric utilities in most areas of the United States. The EI Solution is based on industry-true Internet Protocol (IP) standards.

Energy Intelligence encompasses open standard hardware and software platforms that enable applications including: remote meter reading, remote meter connect/disconnect, real-time prepay, pro-active outage management, real-time load control, validated peak shaving/shifting, demand response and demand side management. It leverages real-time energy data collected from intelligent end point devices and two-way information to deliver increased operational efficiencies and new revenue streams for utilities. Additionally, by utilizing existing and new wireless and broadband communications, the solution is “out-of-the-box ready” and does not require the utility to immediately build proprietary fixed networks that support AMR/AMI systems.

A highly scalable solution, Energy Intelligence provides a strategic migration path that addresses a utility's billing and metering challenges for current AMR/AMI systems and future smart grid initiatives such as distribution automation, home area networking and dynamic pricing. Hardware and software platforms can be deployed on an individual basis, easily scaling to a more fully-integrated solution suite encompassing multiple components to handle the advanced billing and metering requirements of future smart grid applications.

For example, the Universal Metering Device (UMD™) solution component helps utilities to curtail costs associated with truck rolls, debt write-offs and fees resulting from consumers' increasing inability to pay for electricity service through remote connect/disconnect capabilities. The UMD solution also scales to allow a utility to implement advanced smart grid functionality such as real-time pricing, demand response and load control without a hardware change, saving the utility money and time.

HD Supply Utilities will distribute the full Energy Intelligence solution to utilities, including the UMD solution, WISE™ solution for real-time demand response and FlexPay™ solution for prepaid energy. Additionally, the Company will work closely with Carina to provide project management, installation services, technical support and customer care.

“First and foremost, Carina Technology is an IT-focused energy management services company,” said Mike Smalley, chief operating officer and vice president of business development, Carina Technology. “The value we provide to utilities and their consumers is enhanced through the immediate and long-term benefits of scalable broadband versus limited and outdated traditional metering solutions. Carina focuses on providing immediate deployment, immediate performance feedback and immediate payback — months instead of years, while helping the utility to be prepared for future smart grid applications.”

Smalley continues, “we selected HD Supply Utilities as our partner because of our shared vision of how the utility industry is migrating toward broadband-enabled solutions. We operate outside of the box and need a partner that recognizes and supports our innovative position. This shared vision, and HD Supply Utilities’ strength, stability, extensive distribution network and proven relationship-based sales made them a clear choice.”

“We believe Carina Technology’s Energy Intelligence solution is the future of any integrated AMR/AMI system. It is based on an industry-true IP standard, integrates advanced communications systems and is highly scalable to handle a utility’s complex, advanced billing and metering applications required by the smart grid,” explained Geff Smith, vice president, Automation, HD Supply Utilities. “We are delighted to welcome Carina Technology as a new partner to expand and strengthen our full solution suite of smart grid technology solutions.”

About HD Supply Utilities

As North America’s largest electric utilities distributor, HD Supply Utilities (www.hdsupply.com/utilities) is a business of HD Supply (www.hdsupply.com), a leading wholesale distribution company, providing a broad range of products and services to professional customers in the infrastructure & energy, maintenance, repair & improvement and specialty construction markets. With a diverse portfolio of market-leading businesses, HD Supply is one of the largest diversified wholesale distributors in North America, with approximately 900 locations.

About Carina Technology

Carina Technology, Inc. is an information technology firm that provides Energy Intelligence (EI™) Solutions primarily to the U.S. utility and energy industries. Carina enables energy providers to manage operations more efficiently and create new revenue streams through real-time hardware and software applications such as interactive GIS, Energy Data Management, prepaid energy, remote meter reading, demand response, and power quality management.

EI™ is centralized and designed to fully collect, store, and interpret energy data to provide interactive visibility for grid management. To maximize interoperability and speed deployment, EI™ utilizes open standards, integration into multiple utility operating systems over a variety of communications infrastructures, and database-driven architecture. Carina also specializes in building and integrating custom software interfaces to existing CIS, GIS, and OMS systems. Learn more about Carina at www.carinatek.com.

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