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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HD SUPPLY UTILITIES PARTNERS WITH LIXAR SRS TO OFFER FULL SUITE
TURNKEY SOLUTION FOR DEMAND RESPONSE AND DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT**

ORLANDO, FLA. – November 20, 2008 – HD Supply Utilities, North America’s largest electric utilities distributor, has partnered with Lixar SRS to offer the industry’s first IP-based, full suite turnkey demand response and demand side management solution for utility companies and businesses.

The solution supports various utility energy savings programs including demand response, time-of-use and critical peak pricing. Electric utility companies and businesses can execute real-time demand response control programs and receive real-time feedback from participating businesses, homes and communities for energy planning and grid control, achieving energy efficiency.

With two-way communication capability for both real-time demand response control and feedback of the status of the controlled devices, the solution leverages existing broadband Internet access (cable, DSL) within the home. There is no need to deploy a fixed wireless network. Where smart meters are installed, the solution can be integrated with the AMI network.

Lixar SRS is a web technology services company based in Ottawa, Ontario. As part of the alliance, Lixar SRS will provide HD Supply Utilities with a comprehensive suite of energy management solutions, which feature advanced demand response and demand side management software for commercial, industrial and residential customers.

Additionally, Lixar SRS will provide software installation and integration services that include converting older legacy systems to MultiSpeak®-enabled platforms. HD Supply Utilities will distribute the Home Energy Conservation Solution to utility customers and businesses in the United States and Canada.

“The solution has been proven to generate reliable shed on-demand during critical peak periods,” explained Lixar SRS Managing Partner, Richard Oh. “It supports the widest array of protocols and devices, and provides utilities with more options and tools to help consumers and business users manage their energy consumption.”

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“We selected HD Supply Utilities as our partner because of their established reputation as the leading supplier to electric utilities,” he added. “Their comprehensive capabilities, extensive distribution, financial strength and ability to serve all types and sizes of utilities with a strong local relationship are unmatched in the industry.”

Demand response and demand side management are the key components of HD Supply Utilities’ Smart Grid Technology Solution, which offers 16 core components extending from the Home Area Network to the utility data center. The full suite turnkey solution includes: AMR/AMI Installation & Integration, Demand Response, Demand Side Management, Cyber Security and SCADA Systems & Communications.

“By reducing individual home and building electric usage through the Lixar SRS energy management systems, HD Supply Utilities can help utilities to reduce the strain of electricity generation and achieve energy efficiency,” said HD Supply Utilities Vice President of Utility Services, Geff Smith. “HD Supply Utilities has the depth of resources, experience, technical expertise and strategic technology to provide this superior energy conservation solution.”

According to a 2008 published report by the Energy Information Administration (EIA), U.S. Department of Energy, energy consumption is projected to grow by 50 percent between 2005 and 2030. The EIA forecasts a 40 percent mass-market adoption of energy conservation solutions over the next five to 10 years due to state-by-state mandates. ¹

About Lixar SRS

As developers of the world’s first IP-based, multi-protocol energy management solution, Lixar SRS (www.lixarsrs.com) continues to bring the Smart Grid to life with innovative approaches to energy solutions and systems. Lixar has proven and extensive experience in designing, building and integrating enterprise class systems for Fortune 500 companies. Lixar is best positioned to create, customize and configure solutions to meet your current and future requirements.

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.

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1 - Energy Information Administration, Energy Outlook 2008, June 2008.