



## IN THE NEWS

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**USCL Selects Wellspring's ZigBee Radio Network  
For  
Southern California Edison Smart Meter Pilot**

Sacramento, CA (March 1, 2006) – USCL and Wellspring today announced that Wellspring was selected over several competitors to integrate its two way open protocol ZigBee compliant radio network with USCL electric, gas and water utility meter reading and meter data display products. USCL will integrate the Wellspring radios into an exciting pilot project sponsored by Southern California Edison and the County of Los Angeles under a State of California Public Utilities Commission energy efficiencies grant. Phase I of the project, located in Ventura California is scheduled for deployment in April of 2006. Phase II targets several LA County housing complexes located in diverse areas of the county. Electric meter information from 450 apartment units will be transferred by the Wellspring enabled USCL system to a computer gateway for utility use every 15 minutes. Wellspring's radio will also transfer meter data and rate information to USCL display units located inside 350 of the homes every 10 seconds, so that consumers can literally see how much energy they are consuming and what they are spending in virtual real time.

Tom Tamarkin, CEO of USCL Corp explained their decision. "We really wanted a ZigBee solution, because ZigBee is an open protocol supported by more than

200 companies who are developing ZigBee compatible applications.” ZigBee refers to an open protocol documented in the IEEE standard 802.15.4. ZigBee’s proponents believe this open standard will gain wide acceptance, because it is low cost, low power and much more robust than most proprietary radio systems. ZigBee uses CDMA signal spreading with full signal acknowledgment and a self-forming, self-healing mesh topology that alters frequency by dynamic selection of up to 16 channels.

Wellspring has taken ZigBee a step further, adding power agility (from 1 to 100 mW) employed in re-try scheme whereby the radio boosts its power output on each successive re-try in the event of a communication failure. Wade Smith, Wellspring CEO commented “There is no substitute for raw power when trying to move data from one point to another – but too much power increases the radio’s sphere of interference needlessly, blocking other network signals. This power agility feature (coupled with CDMA spreading) allows the Wellspring’s fixed network to overcome changes in the environment as they occur, sending data reliably up to 1500 feet through building structure, with minimal interference to other ZigBee applications.”

Since 2000, Wellspring has deployed over 120,000 radios in fixed network metering systems that it reads every day. “We have been to the college of hard knocks in fixed network radio design and maintenance”, Mr. Smith added. “ZigBee has already given us a huge performance improvement on the 3 projects we installed late last year, all about the same size as this pilot. We couldn’t be happier with this new protocol.”

Apparently Wellspring’s customers feel the same. Water consumption is down an average of 26% in Wellspring’s 120,000 meter water submetering portfolio. The conservation effects of smart metering electricity may not be so dramatic, but the California pilot is expected to show a double digit reduction in use.

Eventually, other ZigBee based products may be added to the USCL Southern California Edison test sites, including thermostats and hot water heater controls

that will allow Southern California Edison to lower demand at critical times, to avoid brownouts and power interruptions. Additionally, gas meters may be integrated into part or all of the test sites. Once the Wellspring network is in place, adding other applications is easy and cheap, and products may come from any of the 200 ZigBee alliance member companies, because ZigBee is an open protocol.

Tom Tamarkin added, "Think about it – does it really make sense to use a different radio network for each application? They can interfere with each other, they all cost money, and they lock the customer into proprietary designs. ZigBee leverages one open network investment to read meters, feed consumption data to consumers, curtail loads on peak, and handle a host of other valuable applications like appliance monitoring, keyless entry, occupancy sensing, and home security."

### About USCL

USCL is a provider of Advanced Metering Infrastructure components. The company's flagship product, the patent pending EMS-2020, provides utility consumers with real time feedback on the consumption of electricity, gas and water in dollars and cents. USCL's total hardware and software solutions merge Automatic Meter Reading, Demand Response, and Automatic Load Control using ZigBee radio gateways under glass, allowing utility mass deployment of complex time or event dependent tariffs and remote bi-directional connection to communicating programmable thermostats. Additional functions include service outage and restoration reporting, tamper reporting, over and under voltage reporting, power factor monitoring remote connect and disconnect, and a host of advanced AMI capabilities. USCL is located in Sacramento CA, and can be reached at 916-482-2000.

### About Wellspring Wireless

Wellspring Wireless offers the nation's most complete line of wireless sub-metering and control products for all types of building and energy delivery systems, including electric, gas, hot water, chilled water, and riser plumbed domestic hot water. Wellspring is located in Bristol Pennsylvania. For more information, call 215-788-8485, or visit [www.wellspringwireless.com](http://www.wellspringwireless.com) You can learn more about the benefits of Wellspring systems at [www.impactmovie.com/wellspring](http://www.impactmovie.com/wellspring).

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