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## 2011 Rural Smart Grid Summit Announces Vendor Award Winners

Bonita Springs, Fla. – The 2011 Rural Smart Grid Summit (RSGS) has announced AT&T, Cooper Power Systems and Verdeeco as award winning vendors at the second annual RSGS held at the Hyatt Regency in Bonita Springs, Florida – September 19-21, 2011.

Thirty seven of the top smart grid technology vendors competed for three separate awards that were voted on by the ninety three utility executives in attendance. The utility executives spent three days collaborating with top smart grid technology vendors discussing current and future solutions available for rural cooperative utilities. Discussion topics included: advanced metering infrastructure (AMI), grid security, demand response, home area networks (HAN), distribution automation and energy storage, just to list a few. The summit format allows each vendor to focus on the individual needs of each cooperative through multiple channels including: senior level boardroom presentations, the RSGS solution showcase, and various networking activities.

The nominees for *Best Overall Vendor Presentation* were, ABB, AT&T and S&C Electric. The winning vendor who left the best overall impression with their entire body of work at the summit was **AT&T**.

The *Vendor to Watch* award went to the up-and-coming vendor with the most innovative smart grid solution. The nominees were Grid 2020, MeterSense and Verdeeco, and the winner was **Verdeeco**.

The *Best Smart Grid Product or Solution* went to the vendor who provided the most exciting product or solution. The nominees were Cooper Power Systems, Landis+Gyr and MeterSense, and the winner was **Cooper Power Systems**.

“The overall format of the event allowed Cooper Power Systems the opportunity to intimately connect with the leaders and decision makers in the rural utility space. We took full advantage of the twenty-five minute boardroom sessions and time at the solution showcase where Cooper Power Systems received valuable and direct insight from the ninety represented cooperatives over a three day period. We will analyze the data we collected and work closely with the cooperatives as we continue to create solutions in this key utility segment,” said, Mike Stoessl, president, Cooper Power Systems.

Bill Booth, General Manager, RSGS “For a lot of the vendors this was their second show with us and that was reflected in the tight competition and close voting, but our VIP utility guests did an excellent job of identifying and rewarding the vendors who put their best foot forward. We will expand the awards category next year in San Diego given the planned sponsor growth and interest in meeting with the rural utility guests we invite.”

The RSGS event has a unique format focused on business development that provides the utility executives multiple opportunities to interact with various vendors in a social and business-friendly setting. Boardroom meetings are conducted with ten utility executives and one vendor, as well as the evening networking opportunities that are designed to promote deeper and more intimate conversations about the future direction of smart grid applications. The 2012 RSGS will be held October 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the Hotel Del Coronado in San Diego, California. Technology companies interested in participating in the 2012 RSGS and developing business with rural cooperative utilities should contact Colin Martin at [cmartin@ruralsmartgrid.com](mailto:cmartin@ruralsmartgrid.com) or by phone at (864) 751-4812.

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