

*For your business and technology editors*

## **Fort Wayne, IN Awards One Year, 75,000 Meter Replacement/AMR Upgrade Program To ABB**

*ABB Water Meters Heads Team for \$11 Million Project*

Ocala, Florida, October 30, 2002 – Fort Wayne, Indiana has awarded ABB Water Meters a 12-month, approximately \$11 million contract to replace aging water meters in the system and to upgrade 75,000 meters to a Mobile Radio System. ABB will provide project management and supply 65,000 ABB absolute encoder water meters equipped with direct-mount Itron ERT modules. An additional 10,000 ABB meters now in service will be upgraded to Itron mobile AMR. United Metering will install 55,000 new ABB meters with direct-mount ERTs; Fort Wayne will upgrade 10,000 newer ABB meters to absolute encoders with direct-mounted ERTs and install another 10,000 new ABB encoder meter/ERTs.

This award follows Boston Water and Sewer Commission's recent \$22 million award to ABB to replace and upgrade 79,000 meters and the award by the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority of a three-year meter replacement and AMR system upgrade contract including 130,000 new ABB absolute encoder register water meters.

“Fort Wayne Utilities has a proactive strategy to improve departmental efficiencies and increase customer satisfaction. Our decision is the result of over four years research and piloting of two different systems,” said Jerome Schoenle, Ft. Wayne Superintendent, Water and Maintenance. Schoenle's comments were seconded by Sally Clem, Billing Systems Manager, “We believe implementing AMR will significantly enhance service to our customers.” Ned Byrer, Associate Director of Utilities, further commented, “We're pleased to propose award of this contract to ABB, who's AMR proposal offers a solution that uniquely satisfied the needs of Water Maintenance, Customer Service, Meter Reading, Finance and Legal.”

“We've been impressed with the commitment that Ft. Wayne has shown to improving their metering and reading system. The reliability and performance of the 10,000-unit ABB installed base of meters positioned us to earn this award,” commented Joakim Weidemanis, ABB Water Meters President. “It is exciting to be taking the lead in the Fort Wayne project, and to be recognized as the market's leading meter replacement/system upgrade company.”

ABB Water Meters is the world's leading water meter supplier, producing over 8 million water meters each year. Ruhrgas Industries (RG) has reached an agreement with ABB to acquire ABB's global water and electricity metering division to create a new global leader in utility metering. The acquisition is expected to be completed in the 4th quarter this year, following customary regulatory approvals, joining a world leader in water and electricity metering with \$480 million in revenues and 3,900 employees in 50 countries with RGI's gas meter manufacturing unit to form the largest utility metering company in the US and the world with global metering revenues of over \$1 billion.

Itron is a leading technology provider and critical source of knowledge to the global energy and water industries. More than 2,000 utilities worldwide rely on Itron technology to deliver the knowledge they require to optimise the delivery and use of energy and water. Itron delivers value to its clients by providing industry-leading solutions for meter data collection, energy information management, commercial and industrial customer care, load management and demand response, transmission and distribution system design software and services, and web-based workforce automation.

United Metering, Herrington Park, N.J., is part of United Water, one of the largest water service companies in the U.S. and a provider of water and wastewater services to more than 7.5 million people. The company is a wholly owned subsidiary of ONDEO Services, a world leader in water and wastewater management services and part of the Suez Group.

Additional information on ABB's Metering Solutions and Project Capabilities can be found at [www.abb.com/metering](http://www.abb.com/metering) [select Water Metering, North America, Turnkey Solutions] or by contacting the Customer Service Team, P.O. Box 1852, Ocala FL, 34478. In the U.S. Outside Florida, please call 800-874-0890 or inside Florida 800-356-6829. In Canada please phone 800-263-9110, in the Caribbean 787-872-2006 or in Mexico 525-55-203-8002.

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