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EDUCATION, EXPO AND NETWORKING RECEIVE HIGH RATINGS AT AUTOVATION 2011

CHICAGO, Ill. – Utility technology professionals gathered in Washington, DC last week for Autovation, the Smart Utility Conference and Exposition. Programming covered the technology lifecycle from building a business case to maximizing the utility's investment after smart meter deployment. Attendees praised the education sessions, exhibitor product demonstrations and networking opportunities.

Attendees represented investor owned, municipal and cooperative electric, water and gas utilities as well as consultants, vendors and other industry stakeholders. Utility participants ranged from those considering new technology to seasoned veterans who have deployed and are exploring best practices for integrating the technology within the utility and getting optimal use from the data they collect.

Comments from attendees included: "Great substance here. Spectacular story." "The presenter's details were excellent -- very applicable to my utility." "The business process preparing for connect/disconnect was interesting and helpful." "Interesting technology in the exhibit hall will help my utility." "Enjoyed hearing how others have dealt with similar situations."

"We are all very pleased with Autovation 2011," said Bob Sitkauskas, Utilimetrics chairman of the board. "A frequent comment every year is that we provide the best education in the industry. That's because we keep it commercial free," explained Sitkauskas. "Our presenters are practitioners who share their experiences and lessons learned. Autovation education sessions, along with the expo and networking offer a unique experience for industry professionals," he said.

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Hosted by Utilimetrics, The Utility Technology Association, Autovation attracted over 1,000 people Sept. 25-28. The conference included 80 education sessions and panel discussions led by 200 industry subject matter experts including Mark Carpenter, vice president and CTO, Oncor; Bruce Carpenter, vice president, Portland General Electric and Glenn Steiger, general manager/CEO Glendale Water & Power.

Opening General Session featured speakers included William M. Gausman, senior vice president, strategic initiatives, Pepco Holdings, Inc.; George S. Hawkins, general manager, DC Water and Paul Feldman, past chairman Midwest ISO.

The Closing General Session featured a panel discussion on The Smart Energy Home, moderated by Clint Wheelock, president, Pike Research.

Pepco Holdings, Inc. and DC Water served as host utilities. Autovation 2011 sponsors included: Diamond Sponsor Itron; Gold Sponsors Neptune, Sensus and Silver Spring Networks; Silver Sponsors Aclara, AT&T and Elster; Bronze Sponsors On-Ramp Wireless, Siemens and Sprint.

Plans are already underway for Autovation 2012, Sept. 30 – October 3 in Long Beach, Calif. Utilimetrics will celebrate its 25th anniversary at Autovation 2012.

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