



## PRESS RELEASE

### GE Showcases Innovative Technologies that Help Reduce Substation Costs and Improve Power System Reliability

*GE's Multilin HardFiber™ System and Universal Relay family products showcased for over 400 industry attendees at Western Protective Relay Conference*

**MARKHAM, Ontario, Canada** – November 6, 2008 - GE Digital Energy showcased its newest technology-leading protection & control (P&C) products, the Multilin HardFiber System and Multilin UR PLUS Family, at the Western Protective Relay Conference (WPRC) in Spokane, Washington, October 21-23, 2008.

The HardFiber System, which eliminates the need for thousands of copper wires in a substation and replaces them with a few fiber optic cables, can save utilities up to 50% of their current installation and maintenance costs while at the same time increasing worker safety and power system reliability. The UR PLUS products serve as the engines for industrial and utility substation automation, and are built on a common platform featuring high-speed and open standard peer-to-peer communications including support for IEC 61850. These products offer many new security features that help utilities comply with NERC requirements and are key in the prevention, detection, and traceability of unauthorized access attempts made to devices that protect critical power infrastructure.

The WPRC is an educational forum for the presentation and discussion of protective relaying and related subjects. The forum allows participants to learn about and apply advanced technologies that prevent electrical power failures. The WPRC, sponsored by Washington State University, is the premier P&C conference for the western United States and Canada.

GE Digital Energy had a significant presence at this year's conference. The team provided six whitepapers, participated in a multi-vendor P&C security panel, presented a day-long Technical Seminar on the HardFiber System and hosted a nightly Technology Showcase. The whitepapers, some co-written and co-presented with customers, explored topics such as "Detection of Incipient Faults in Underground Medium Voltage Cables" and "Design & Implementation of an Industrial Facility Islanding and Load Shed System." The whitepapers were presented to over 400 attendees. One of GE Digital Energy's P&C security experts participated in the multi-vendor security panel that explored NERC and CIP security standards and helped attendees understand upcoming security regulations and the solutions available to help them meet these regulatory requirements.

Over 60 customers attended GE Digital Energy's HardFiber System Technical Seminar which focused on the life cycle of process bus, from designing to commissioning and testing the system. Process bus is a substation communication architecture that efficiently collects and transfers data from switchyard equipment to the control room. HardFiber is an IEC 61850 process bus solution. At the Technology Showcase, the HardFiber System was on display while GE Digital Energy P&C technology

experts talked with visitors and demonstrated how the system works. Also showcased were solutions for advanced transformer, generator, and distance P&C as well as rugged communications.

“GE’s Multilin products are key in helping utilities and large industrial customers prevent electrical power failures. The WPRC is an important forum that allows us to showcase our best technology solutions to help customers cut costs, improve efficiency and achieve real business benefits,” said Juan Macias, General Manager – Protection & Control, GE Digital Energy. “Many visitors who attended our presentations, seminar, and technology showcase told us they appreciated our strong presence at the show and the opportunity to learn more about our new HardFiber System, a breakthrough in the installation and ownership of P&C systems.”

For more information on GE’s Multilin HardFiber System and the Multilin UR PLUS Family, visit [www.gemultilin.com](http://www.gemultilin.com).

#### **About GE Digital Energy:**

GE Digital Energy, a division of GE Enterprise Solutions, is a global leader in protection and control, communications, power sensing and power quality solutions. Its products and services increase the reliability of electrical power networks and critical equipment for utility, industrial and large commercial customers. From protecting and optimizing assets such as generators, transmission lines and motors, to ensuring secure wireless data transmission and providing uninterruptible power, GE Digital Energy delivers industry-leading technologies to solve the unique challenges of each customer. For more information, visit <http://www.gedigitalenergy.com>.

#### **About GE Enterprise Solutions:**

GE Enterprise Solutions elevates customers' productivity and profitability with integrated solutions using sensors and non-destructive testing; security and life safety technologies; power system protection and control; and plant automation and embedded computing systems. Enterprise Solutions' high-tech, high-growth businesses include Sensing & Inspection Technologies, Security, Digital Energy, and GE Fanuc Intelligent Platforms. The business has 17,000 problem-solving employees in more than 60 countries around the world.

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