



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Thunder Bay Hydro Selects TBayTel for Smart Meter Communications

Thunder Bay, ON – Thunder Bay Hydro has contracted with TBayTel to provide local communications for the Smart Meter network being installed in the city. The company will be using TBayTel's extensive cellular network to convey local meter reading data into the Thunder Bay Hydro central database.

As part of Ontario's Smart Meter Initiative, the Ontario government has established a smart meter goal of collecting hourly interval data from every home in the province by 2010. TBayTel's private cellular network and extremely high network up time availability meets the meter data backhauling needs of Thunder Bay Hydro and makes this partnership possible.

"TBayTel has provided the necessary technology to support Thunder Bay Hydro's Smart Meter program and supports the goals of reduced energy use and costs for our community," said Don Campbell, President & CEO of TBayTel.

"Our company remains committed to maintaining a communication infrastructure that enables modern, demanding businesses to grow, prosper and compete," added Campbell.

"We are pleased to be able to work with our local provider to be able to complete the system that will bring us online with the province's Smart Meter Initiative," says Tim Wilson, Vice President of Customer Service and Conservation at Thunder Bay Hydro. "Backhauling meter readings and operational data from the meters has now become a daily task for us and we will be doing this through 70 data collection units that we have installed across the city. TBayTel through the use of its private cellular network has now become a critical data transport for us and we look forward to long term success with them."

Thunder Bay Hydro has installed 20,000 Smart Meters which represents about 40% of the overall project. They are on track to finish the majority of installations by mid November.

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For More Information -
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About TBayTel

As the leading Communications Solutions Provider in Northern Ontario, TBayTel is dedicated to delivering state-of-the-art competitively priced telecom solutions that ensure people, businesses and communities of Northern Ontario have multiple points of access to the global communications highway. TBayTel offers the region's largest digital cellular coverage with extensive products and services that include data, voice, wireless, Internet and security. With over a century of contributing to the quality of life, infrastructure and economic health of the north, TBayTel's understanding of regional market dynamics is unparalleled.

About Thunder Bay Hydro

Thunder Bay Hydro is responsible for the power line system within the city limits of Thunder Bay and for delivering electricity to the homes and businesses located there. Thunder Bay Hydro distributes electricity to more than 49,000 customers via a network of over 1,300 kilometers (815 miles) of overhead and underground power lines.