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CITY DEPLOYS R.O.A.M. PILOT PROGRAM TO MONITOR AND CONTROL LIGHTING SYSTEMS

Today, the City of New Orleans Department of Public Works will launch the Remote Operation Asset Management (ROAM) solution pilot program to remotely monitor and control street and area lighting assets. The program will assist Public Works and the city's maintenance contractor, Robinson Industries, in proactively identifying and resolving street light service needs.

The ROAM solution combines intelligent photocontrols, machine to machine communications (M2M), wireless communications, mobility technologies, and network management services to establish connectivity between the street lighting system and the city. The department will install 1,000 ROAM units to evaluate its effectiveness. Upon completion of a successful pilot program, the department will authorize a citywide deployment schedule that is expected to take 36 to 48 months to complete.

"Public Works continues to research innovative ways of improving service and reliability by reducing costs, leveraging technology, and being environmentally conscious," said Robert Mendoza, Director of the Department of Public Works. "It's been extremely difficult to locate one product that can achieve all of these goals simultaneously, but ROAM clearly fits that bill."

ROAM replaces the existing photocontrol, the device on each street light that senses light levels and turns street lights on and off, with intelligent photocontrols containing embedded wireless communication chips. During installation, crews will activate individual ROAM photocontrols, triggering the assignment of a GPS coordinate so that the location of the light fixture is recorded by the system. During activation, key attributes such as lamp type, wattage, and pole type are entered into the system for auditing purposes and further maintenance efficiencies.

Once installed and activated, ROAM photocontrols will communicate via a wireless transceiver to other intelligent photocontrols within their vicinity, creating a self-configuring, self healing, and self optimizing wireless network that exchanges data between photocontrols. Status reports from individual intelligent photocontrols travel back to gateways, or central collection points, where information is collected and ultimately transmitted back to a highly secure network operations center that Public Works and its contractor can access 24 hours daily via a secure internet web portal.

ROAM will provide status reports four times daily, or on demand, to city oversight administrators and reports any service needs. A status report will notify crews of lights that are no longer operating, and offer a preliminary diagnostic that will prepare crews to make the necessary repairs. These reports will allow the city to better predict the exact maintenance needs of the street lighting system and further fine tune future maintenance contracts.

"ROAM will allow us to closely monitor the contractor's service requirement compliance with minimal effort, thereby assuring that we're getting the full value for taxpayer dollars. Also, the data we collect will allow future potential contractors to know exactly what our service needs are, reducing their risk and therefore lowering costs to the city," said Mendoza.

The department plans to utilize ROAM in place of the current night time patrols at an initial cost of \$65,000 which includes the setup of software, commissioning the reporting system, installation and operation training, the cost of the initial ROAM units, and engineering the gateway configuration. ROAM is manufactured by Acuity Brands Lighting, one of the world's leading providers of lighting fixtures. ROAM received Lightfair International's 2007 Innovation Award as "Best of Category" in May 2007.

The City of New Orleans is one of six test pilot cities for this program. Other test cities include Little Rock, AR, Columbia, SC, Glendale, AZ, Los Angeles, CA, and Charlotte, NC.

This year, the Department of Public Works has repaired more than 13,000 street lights throughout the city.

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