

Press Release: February 26, 2007

Broadband communications over Power Lines (BPL) in Paris area:

MECELEC TELECOMS has chosen ILEVO, a company of Schneider Electric, as technological partner

1. Declaration of Bruno Estienne - President of MECELEC TELECOMS ILE-DE-FRANCE:

«It was pretty challenging to choose among all BPL offers available on the market. We drew a model of low voltage electrical network with different cable lengths and different attenuations, as close as possible to real environment. Then we implemented on that model all different solutions in competition.

To conclude, ILEVO products, based on DS2 chipset, are the best performing and the best designed products for PLC 200 Mbps Access solutions. We noticed that nominal performances were getting deteriorated in standard operating conditions, but we also observed that ILEVO equipment showed satisfying performances in all electrical configurations tested.

We also wanted to make sure that the selected manufacturer commit on products reliability, with associated economical conditions if equipment perform lower than expected. A warranty that ILEVO provided to us.

Last, we consider that embedding DS2 chipset is the best option to ensure coexistence with future generations of PLC equipment based on IEEE P1901 standard (a project made with a strong contribution of OPERA and UPA)

2. Choosing ILEVO – Schneider Electric Powerline Communications:

MECELEC has chosen this manufacturer for the main following reasons:

- Product performances, tested in MECELEC labs, in a complete PLC installation, from electrical substation to subscriber:
 - o Data rate and quality of service,
 - o Coverage, with and without repeater,
 - o Ease of deployment and integration,
 - o Automatic adaptability to real environment conditions and electrical interferences.
- Financial strengths and commitment of Ilevo regarding the reliability of its equipment, on top of business conditions negotiated on products as well as software and technical assistance.
- The significant success of commercial deployments already realized in Europe (Spain, Switzerland...) and in the world (India, Australia, Venezuela...)
- The commitment of ILEVO and its major roles endorsed within standardization projects (IEEE P1901, UPA, OPERA, CISPR, CENELEC ...).

3. Choosing DS2 technology:

Many elements participated in the decision of choosing DS2 technology:

- Over one million DS2 chipset sold worldwide, with a significant and positive impact on equipment prices.
- DS2 technology is carried by a powerful worldwide association, UPA - *Universal Powerline Association* www.upapl.org (created in May, 2004). This non-profit association aims at creating open specifications for broadband PLC products and services. UPA's membership includes chipset makers (DS2, Cypress, Toshiba) and manufacturers (ILEVO, Acbel, Corinex, Ambient, Current Technologies, Netgear ...). Eric Morel, C.E.O. of Ilevo, currently chairs UPA.
- Specifications defined concern the « In-home » market (local networks within the home) as well as « Access » market (outdoor communication networks).
- DS2 technology is used as a basis for OPERA project (Open PLC European Research Alliance) that aims at developing a European standard for a new generation of PLC Access equipment to boost adoption of broadband PLC. Co-founded by the European Union under the 6th R&D program FP6, OPERA involves 37 partners such as Electric Utilities, manufacturers, technology providers, universities, mechanics engineering and consulting companies, as well as telecom operators. (www.ist-opera.org)
- Last, IEEE P1901 future standard (<http://grouper.ieee.org/groups/1901/>) for coexistence and interoperability between equipment will result from PLC industry research, particularly from UPA and OPERA or well known industrials such as IBM, Intel, Infineon, Motorola, Panasonic, Sony, or Texas Instruments. Jean-Philippe Faure, Vice-president Standardization for ILEVO is currently chairing IEEE P1901 work group.

4. Summary of performances for the selected solution:

- PLC data rate:
 - o at end-user CPE level: 5 to 20 Mbps
 - o on PLC network: from 40 to 150 Mbps
 - o upload / download symmetry : OK
 - o bandwidth limitation tests (1 Mbps, 5 Mbps) : OK
 - o homogeneous bandwidth allocation among users : OK
- PLC network latency : < to 25 ms (enough for top quality VoIP and online network games)
- Reboot time of a new CPE : 30 seconds
- Massive firmware upgrade tests: OK
- Distance between transformer station and the first repeater: over 100 m

Project executive summary: Broadband communications over Power Lines (BPL) in Paris area

As the largest PLC (Powerline Communication) deployment ever realized in France and in Europe, this project, started by SIPPEREC, concerns over 80 towns within the greater Paris area, with a potential of 1.5 million household, representing 50 millions euros of equipment for coming 3 years.

Power Line Communication (PLC) is a mature and revolutionary technology to bring broadband Internet and telephony (VoIP) via any power outlet and offer new services to consumers, professionals, local administration and energy companies.

After successful deployments in Rosny-sous-Bois and Courbevoie, SIPPEREC has chosen MECELEC TELECOMS ILE DE FRANCE to deploy and commercialise a wholesale telecommunication offer on the local electrical loop towards retail Telcos and ISPs wishing to propose offers to end-users, either consumers or professionals.

In May 2006, an international call for tender was made for the selection of the technological solution. MECELEC TELECOMS ILE-DE-FRANCE then relied on the consulting company EGIS (www.egis.fr) to find all different players that might commercialise services offers to end-users.

After many workshop involving operators, distributors and local administrations, terms and conditions regarding commercialisation were defined and a fund was started end of December 2006.

See also on www.mecelec-telecoms.com, Press releases 2006 from March 30, June 30, November 6, December 18 and January 18, 2007.

About MECLEEC :

MECELEC was created in 1934 and was originally specialized in electrical networks equipment.

By the end of the 50s, MECELEC made a significant step by using polyester to manufacture electrical connections materials, at the time made in metal.

This technological know-how has built the fame of the company, first known as an equipment manufacturer for electrical networks, then for telecom networks and finally for gas and water networks.

On the basis of that technology, the company also developed a branch for automotive industry (sold few years later).

But by that time, MECELEC already had other skills that were enhanced among years: connectors, electronics, telephony, POS terminals,... This heritage enabled the firm to provide its customers not only with the housing, box or cabinet, but also with all components inside its equipment, often highly technical.

Nowadays, MECELEC is a company that make a 46.2 million euros turn-over (2005), with around 300 employees, with headquarters in Mauves and Saint Agrève – Ardèche (FRANCE), and offices in Fabrègues (near Montpellier), Vonges (near Dijon), in Spain (Bilbao, Madrid and Barcelona), and in Romania (Cluj).

The company is quoted on Eurolist, compartment C - Euronext Paris. Code ISIN: FR0000061244 – MCLC.

About ILEVO - Schneider Electric Powerline Communications (SEPC) :

Based in Grenoble (France) and Karlstad (Sweden), ILEVO – a company of Schneider Electric (turn over of 12 Billion euros in 2005, 90 000 employees in 190 countries) – is the worldwide specialist of Power Line Communication (PLC) solutions.

With a double expertise in telecommunications and energy, ILEVO provides equipment embedding PLC technology to create broadband communications networks over the electrical grid. The resulting communications networks suits different needs (for instance last meter connection in FTTH deployments) and support many broadband applications such as Access/Telecom (broadband Internet, telephony, video on demand), Energy (Smart grid, monitoring, energy efficiency), and Home networking (IPTV and triple play services extension, WiFi coverage extension...).

ILEVO offer includes infrastructure products (head-ends, repeaters and net conditioning), end-users devices (CPE/Adapters), management software suite, and a large range of services (consulting, engineering, training...).

Today, ILEVO's ambition is to act as a worldwide leader of telecommunication and energy convergence and deliver value to our customer by providing them with the best of PLC technology, everywhere, anytime, at any power outlet.

ILEVO – Power to communicate!

www.ilevo.com

About SIPPAREC:

SIPPAREC is responsible for electrical and telecommunication affairs on behalf of 86 townships from Hauts-de-Seine, Seine-Saint-Denis, Val de Marne, Yvelines, and Val d'Oise.

As a key expert among these townships, SIPPAREC helps them to define their digital country planning.

Step by step, SIPPAREC designed and implement a complete disposal to cover all the area with the best technological options.

This public structure of telecommunication networks is developed through a Public Service Delegation with:

- _ IRISE for a global 'black' optical fiber infrastructure,
- _ Numéricable/NOOS to deploy wired networks over 29 townships,
- _ MECELEC TELECOMS ILE-DE-FRANCE to deploy a PLC network,
- _ ID RESO for a PON network that will provide optical fiber access to over 6 000 companies within largest business areas (SEQUANTIC zone).

Press contacts:

For MECLEEC : Actus Lyon - Marie-Claude Triquet / Press relations – Tel: +33 4 72 18 04 93 – mctriquet@actus.fr

For SIPPAREC : Catherine Dumas / Development Manager – Tel:+33 1 44 74 32 09 – cdumas@sipparec.fr

For SEPC: Christophe BALME / Ilevo Press Relations – Tel: +33 4 76 60 63 02 christophe.balme@fr.non.schneider-electric.com