

Xcel Energy starts construction on smart grid project in Boulder, Colo.

May 15, 2008

By Sarir Ahmed

Xcel Energy said May 15 that construction has started on its Smart Grid City program in Boulder, Colo.

The company said it has completed the design phase and ordered the equipment for the multiphase project. It is expected to be completed in December 2009.

"We're on our way toward building the grid of the future and making SmartGridCity a reality," said Xcel Energy Chairman, President and CEO Dick Kelly. "This is a forward-thinking project that will transform the way we do business. In SmartGridCity, our customers will have more information, including the tools to communicate directly with us, and will choose when and how they use their energy based on price, generating resource or convenience."

Phase one is the demonstration phase and runs from March to August, with initial installations taking place to test capabilities and gauge customer reaction. Phase two runs from September to December 2009 and will be a full deployment phase to a broader customer base. The project could cost up to \$100 million.

Xcel Energy and its partners on the project have begun installing the high-speed communications network and smart grid sensing equipment necessary for deploying the project.

GridPoint Inc. said May 15 that Xcel Energy selected the GridPoint SmartGrid Platform for the project.

The platform applies information technology to the electric grid to provide utilities with an intelligent network of distributed energy resources that controls load, stores energy and produces power.

"GridPoint provides an intelligent platform to aggregate and control a variety of energy resources in the home or business," said Xcel Energy Chief Information Officer Michael Carlson. "We'll be able to test and confirm capabilities to meet the individual needs of our customers while also deploying new capabilities for balancing supply and demand in a clean and efficient manner."

The company said the technologies and system capabilities Xcel Energy will be evaluating from GridPoint in conjunction with the project include advanced demand management, supply management, solar PV integration, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles smart charging, single

interface for control, online energy management, instant backup power, performance monitoring and customer support.