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SEL Announces Embedded exe-GUARD Antimalware for Critical Communications Devices

PULLMAN, WA — January 31, 2014— Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. today announced the availability of a free software upgrade that integrates embedded exe-GUARD™ antivirus technology for SEL-3620 Ethernet Security Gateway, SEL-3622 Security Gateway, and SEL-3610 Port Server products.

Exe-GUARD provides robust protection and awareness of past, present, and future malware threats, and provides a potent whitelist defensive architecture. This technology eliminates the need for signature updates and adds zero settings when integrated into a product. SEL designed and built exe-GUARD as part of a cooperative project with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Dominion Virginia Power (DVP), and Sandia National Laboratories (SNL).

“The exe-GUARD project has provided SNL with the unique opportunity of technically contributing to a commercial product that improves the security of energy delivery systems, that addresses CIP compliance standards, and that meets the operational needs of a major energy provider,” said Adrian Chavez, cybersecurity scientist at SNL.

Exe-GUARD provides protection against rootkits, with kernel-level whitelisting and secured memory privileges, with mandatory access controls (MACs). Exe-GUARD also provides powerful resistance to code injection, with executable whitelisting. These features are all built on top of a digitally signed, known, good firmware baseline. SEL’s exe-GUARD helps support NERC CIP compliance efforts and eliminates Technical Feasibility Exceptions (TFEs) associated with CIP-007-3 R4.

“SEL strives to be at the forefront of public-private partnerships, working together to provide crucial solutions to critical industries,” said Rhett Smith, development manager for SEL Wired Networks. “As an employee-owned company, SEL has a strong commitment to our customers to help them defend against the cybersecurity threat landscape. One of the best ways we can do this is by holding ourselves to a higher standard through our security development lifecycle (SDL), and giving our customers the tools and knowledge they need to protect themselves against tomorrow’s cybersecurity threats.”

For more information on the features, benefits, and applications of the SEL-3620, SEL’s cybersecurity solutions, or DoE’s Cybersecurity for Energy Delivery Systems (CEDS) programs, visit www.selinc.com/p182 or contact Rhett Smith (+1.509.336.7939) or Colin Gordon (+1.509.334.8083).

SEL serves the power industry worldwide through the design, manufacture, supply, and support of products and services for power system protection, monitoring, control, automation, and metering. SEL offers unmatched local technical support, a worldwide, ten-year product warranty, and a commitment to making electric power safer, more reliable, and more economical.

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