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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SEL “Powers” Education

PULLMAN, WA—March 28, 2014—Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. (SEL) today announced that the company is working on a major power system upgrade for Stanford University. This upgrade is part of a three-phase project to improve power system reliability on Stanford’s 8,100-plus-acre campus in the heart of Silicon Valley. SEL engineers have built a SCADA system, installed an arc-flash protection solution, and provided onsite training and support for system operators.

According to Eddie Schweitzer, SEL business development director, SEL products are increasingly being adopted on university and college campuses, especially as the company develops innovative power management solutions to improve the reliability of electric power around the world.

“College campuses are basically small cities with thousands of residents, living areas, labs, gymnasiums, libraries, classrooms, retail areas, and stadiums,” Schweitzer said. “Many have their own power generation and electrical distribution systems. Our products and solutions are a perfect fit because they maximize uptime, locate disruptions, and increase system efficiency.”

If a campus experiences a power disruption, an advanced power management system from SEL can transform the power system into an isolated microgrid. Energy supplied from onsite generators can maintain critical loads while the system automatically reduces noncritical loads, such as heating and air conditioning, to stabilize the power system.

“We have been upgrading a tremendous number of university power systems in the last few years,” said Saurabh Shah, senior business developer for SEL Engineering Services. “We can install systems that control and automate the campus’s entire power grid. By reconfiguring the systems, universities can coordinate and share power from emergency generators, shed noncritical loads, or reconfigure power to flow whenever it is needed.”

This Stanford project is similar to one SEL completed at Purdue University. In 2012, two separate incidents caused dozens of buildings on Purdue’s campus to lose power, resulting in a disruption of operations and frustration among students and faculty. SEL helped Purdue by demonstrating the benefits of investing in power system reliability. Today, a distribution automation system from SEL monitors and controls the university’s power system, making it more reliable and ensuring the lights stay on for the more than 39,000 students.

“By collecting information using SEL products, universities can evaluate in real time what is happening on their system,” Shah said. “That’s a powerful thing. We are not just selling products, but providing system-wide power management capabilities.”

To learn more about SEL's solutions for college and university campuses, visit www.selinc.com/p192.

SEL is an employee-owned company that 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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