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SEL President Focuses on Sensible Cybersecurity During the Ovation®/WDPF® Users' Group Conference

PITTSBURGH, PA — August 7, 2009 — Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. (SEL) president, Ed Schweitzer, highlighted cybersecurity challenges and solutions during his keynote address at the Ovation/WDPF Users' Group Conference in Pittsburgh July 27–30.

Focusing on vulnerabilities, threats, and solutions relevant to power plants and the broader electric power industry, Schweitzer emphasized security as something important in its own right, not simply as a response to regulatory requirements. He provided 12 tips for improving cybersecurity:

1. Know all communications paths to your assets – draw a picture!
2. Use strong passwords.
3. Manage passwords.
4. Encrypt communications.
5. Practice “need to know.”
6. Compartmentalize knowledge.
7. For key assets, have more than one secure communications path.
8. Take action now. Do not wait for a government mandate or an attack.
9. Review alarms and access activity.
10. Do not forget physical security.
11. Practice security in depth.
12. Guard your access tools.

Schweitzer concluded with an industry call to action. “Security is our industry’s responsibility. The risks are real. We need to take sensible, wise steps necessary to protect our assets, and we need to do so today.”

The Ovation/WDPF Users' Group was formed in 1987 to provide a forum for ongoing and open communication between Emerson Process Management Power & Water Solutions and the end-users of its Ovation and WDPF process control systems. Over the years, membership has grown significantly – from less than 20 members in 1987 to approximately 3000 members worldwide today.

Celebrating 25 years of innovation in 2009, SEL serves the electric 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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Making Electric Power Safer, More Reliable, and More Economical®