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SEL Lewiston Plant Energizes Production

PULLMAN, WA — April 12, 2012 — Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. (SEL) announced today that relays are in full production at the new Lewiston, Idaho, location and are now shipping to customers worldwide.

SEL expanded its operation into Lewiston with the opening of a new 100,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in January. The first items produced were plastic parts for SEL's many electrical control products. Now, 120 people work at the facility, manufacturing digital relays that will eventually help control the flow of electricity on power grids around the world.

"We've had several different models come off the line so far," said SEL's manufacturing operations director of engineering, Mike Sabo. "Eventually, many more models and products will be built here in Lewiston."

The Lewiston plant currently has two shifts: one manufactures relays, data cables, voltage regulators, and plastic parts. The second shift currently manufactures everything except the relays. According to SEL Lewiston plant manager Brenda Ross, getting that second shift manufacturing relays too is the next step for the facility.

Ross added that SEL's Plastics division, which relocated from the SEL Pullman headquarters, is already growing. Soon SEL will install a new 220-ton plastic injection molding press that will allow the manufacturing of larger plastic parts. With the addition of a piece of equipment expected later this year, SEL plastics operations will double.

As a result of SEL's new Lewiston location, many employees who had been commuting to Pullman from the Lewis Clark Valley have been able to transfer to Lewiston and work closer to home.

"It is awesome. I've seen people run home to have lunch with their kids or go to a school function. Today, I went to an appointment and didn't have to take a whole day off work," Ross said.

As many as 500 people could work at the Lewiston facility. The site also has additional acreage that will allow SEL to expand.

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 is 100 percent employee-owned and 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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