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Schneider Electric Center for Innovation and Technology (CIT)

Formed to explore new markets and applications for the company's broad portfolio of electrical power and control products, the CIT is part of Schneider Electric's global R&D infrastructure.

The CIT includes 20 scientists and engineers who work out of the company's key design centers in Raleigh, N.C., Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Nashville, Tennessee. Their technical expertise spans more than a dozen scientific areas, from electromagnetics and thermal analysis to plasma physics, signal processing, system design, control theory, and many others. Gary Pollard, director of the CIT, said the group has the best of both worlds when it comes to research. "We have the unique opportunity to be involved both in pure science and applied research as we work to develop new products and technologies and also to enhance the performance of our current products and the processes by which we produce them."

The group works with its European counterparts to support technology development for all of Schneider Electric and is presently focused in three principal areas:

- Designing and bringing to market a complete system to connect and manage electricity within residential buildings, small commercial buildings and the electrical power grid.
- Pursuing advancements in electric motor monitoring and protection. Condition monitoring, predictive maintenance and protection of electric motors and their mechanical loads are a growing business interest for Schneider Electric.

- more -

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- Utilizing computer modeling technologies to simulate and improve product performance, drawing from multiple scientific disciplines including Plasma Physics, to Thermal Management, and Electromagnetics.

Among the new products now on the market resulting from CIT innovations are: (1) arc fault circuit interrupter (AFCI), a device that improves circuit protection by detecting arcs within wiring and appliances; (2) voltage sag ride thru, an economical way for industrial relays to operate in low voltage conditions and; (3) Digital Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter, an improved system that can detect ground fault conditions in homes.

The CIT has contributed greatly to Schneider Electric's expanding intellectual property, primarily in the areas listed above. There are also patents pending for technology developed by the CIT that will connect alternative energy sources with the electrical grid.

One patent pending is for a process that will automatically disconnect an alternative energy device, be it a fuel cell, wind or micro turbine or solar heat conveyor, if the device begins to send power to a failed electrical grid. The system also will resume operations by automatically detecting when power has been restored. Called "anti-islanding", this technology literally prevents the creation of an island of electricity resulting when the grid goes down and the electricity being generated could energize nearby homes and utility lines. This development demonstrates the company's ability to build on strengths as it utilizes mathematical principles based on motor control technology.

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Schneider Electric North American Operating Division

Headquartered in Palatine, Ill., the North American Operating Division of Schneider Electric had sales of \$2.5 billion (U.S.) in 2003. The North American Operating Division is one of four operating divisions of Schneider Electric, headquartered in Paris, France, and markets the Square D, Telemecanique and Merlin Gerin brand products to customers in the United States, Canada and Mexico. In the United States, Schneider Electric is best known by its flagship Square D brand, with Telemecanique becoming increasingly known in the industrial control and automation markets and supported by many Square D distributors. For 100 years, Square D has been a market-leading brand of electrical distribution and industrial control products, systems and services. Schneider Electric is a global electrical industry leader with 2003 sales of approximately \$9.9 billion (U.S.). Visit Schneider Electric on the Internet at:

- Corporate – <http://www.us.schneider-electric.com>
- Telemecanique Products – <http://www.us.telemecanique.com>
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