



Contact:

Jen Dirks

Bader Rutter & Associates

Phone: (262) 938-5565

jdirks@bader-rutter.com

Tim Trush

Schneider Electric, North American Operating Division

Phone: (847) 397-2600

timothy-m.trush@us.schneider-electric.com

www.us.schneider-electric.com

**SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC NORTH AMERICAN OPERATING DIVISION
ANNOUNCES KENT CRAWFORD AS NEW CHAIRMAN
OF INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

PALATINE, III. – May 25, 2006 – The Schneider Electric North American Operating Division today announced Kent Crawford will assume the role of chairman for the Industrial Research Institute (IRI). He will officially take office as IRI Chairman at the close of IRI's 2006 Annual Meeting in Colorado Springs, Colo. In addition to his new role, Crawford will continue serving as vice president of engineering at Schneider Electric's North American Operating Division.

"The Industrial Research Institute strives to deliver outstanding value to its members by providing insight into best practices, creating networking opportunities and quickly disseminating knowledge in appropriate formats. Kent has been committed to our cause and an active member of the IRI for many years. We could not imagine a better person to bring our organization to the next level," said Edward Bernstein, president of the Industrial Research Institute. "We are honored that he has accepted this position and we look forward to working with him in his new role as chairman."

Crawford, based in Nashville, has been on IRI's Board of Directors since 2003 and has been active in the Institute's Membership, Finance and Program Planning Committees. He succeeds former IRI Chairman Susan Gaud, of Kraft Foods, Inc. Schneider Electric has been a member organization of the IRI since 1989.

About the Industrial Research Institute

The Industrial Research Institute (IRI) is the foremost business association of leaders in research and development (R&D) working together to enhance the effectiveness of technological innovation in industry. Founded in 1938 through the National Research Council, the IRI comprises senior executives from a diverse range of industries whose member companies are investing over \$70 billion annually in R&D worldwide. The IRI is the leading cross-industry organization providing the R&D community with insights, solutions and best practices in innovation management developed through collaborative knowledge creation. For more information, call 703-647-2580 or visit the organization's Web site at www.iriinc.org.

--more--

Schneider Electric
North American Operating Division
1415 South Roselle Road
Palatine, IL 60067-7399
Tel. (1) 847-397-2600
Fax (1) 847-925-7271
www.us.schneider-electric.com

Merlin Gerin

Square D

Telemecanique

SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC ANNOUNCES CRAWFORD AS CHAIRMAN

Page 2 of 2

About Schneider Electric

Headquartered in Palatine, Ill., the North American Operating Division of Schneider Electric had sales of \$2.8 billion (U.S.) in 2005. 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 2005 sales of approximately \$14.5 billion (U.S.). Visit Schneider Electric on the Internet at:

- Corporate – <http://www.us.schneider-electric.com>
- Telemecanique Products – <http://www.us.telemecanique.com>
- Square D Products – <http://www.us.squared.com>
- Merlin Gerin Products – <http://www.us.merlengerin.com>

#