Dear readers,

Since the last edition of the Network Management customer newsletter, we have continued our strategy to further expand our portfolio and improve the comprehensiveness of our offering with the addition of Insert Key Solutions (IKS) and Obvient Strategies. The incorporation of these companies into our Ventyx business will extend the scope of our software offering, further complementing our extensive range of operational technologies. This is good news for customers, who will be able to access an enhanced range of complete solutions and expertise from ABB as a one-stop provider.

We are already receiving orders to combine technologies from these new acquisitions with existing ABB and Ventyx products and will give you more news on these in the next issue of this newsletter.

In this edition, you will find stories on ABB’s network management activities across the world, including our announcements of the IKS and Obvient acquisitions. We cover Delhi’s mass transit rail system and how ABB’s MicroSCADA Pro installations are helping to keep the trains running, and the next stage of ABB’s contribution to the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation (KPTCL) power network, which serves more than 14 million customers in and around Bangalore. We also cover the launch of our Network Manager Market Management System for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), in the United States.

We have attended a number of customer events this quarter and you will find details of our participation, which included a booth showing the Obvient portfolio at DistribuTECH, a major transmission and distribution event in North America; EUTC, the annual European Utility Telecom Conference, held this year in London; and our presentation of smart grid technologies at the Ministry of Water and Electricity in Saudi Arabia.

We are also upgrading our Network Manager™ training facilities and we bring you an update on the facilities provided by our various regional training centers.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the newsletter and that it provides some insight into the scope of our solutions. We look forward to working with you in the future and welcome your feedback on any issues related to network management and beyond.

Best regards,

Jens Birgersson,
Network Management Business Unit Manager
With a population of 12 million, Delhi has one of the highest number of cars per square kilometer in India. The city has more vehicles on its roads than Calcutta, Mumbai and Chennai put together. Add a surging population and vigorous economic growth, and the result is traffic chaos, clouds of pollution, multiple road accidents, long delays and lost productivity.

Early in the new millennium, Delhi’s state and local government decided to tackle the problem of road congestion by building a new mass transit rail system following some of Delhi’s most congested routes. ABB was contracted to supply the traction electrification and a range of cutting-edge power technologies for the project, including power supply and distribution equipment and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems.

ABB has a long history of supplying network control and substation automation, and thousands of ABB MicroSCADA Pro systems have been installed worldwide. The 5,000th license was sold in May 2007 to Delhi Metro, which also ordered ABB’s MicroSCADA system when Phase 1 construction of the new transport system began in 2000.

Delhi’s metro system has both elevated and underground sections, and each of its 59 stations has an electrical substation supplying power through ABB switchgear. “ABB MicroSCADA Pro systems are essential for monitoring and maintaining the electricity supply for the entire network,” said Delhi Metro’s Electrical Director, Satish Kumar, and since the first line started up in 2002, “There’s been no problem.”

“ABB equipment is playing a substantial role in maintaining the reliability of power supply for Delhi Metro,” he said, adding that ABB will integrate the entire rail network, Phase 1 and Phase 2, with a SCADA system to protect the power supply.

“By the end of this year, reliability of our power supply system will depend entirely on ABB technology,” he said. “Continuity of power supply is very important to us, because otherwise it can lead to chaos. The SCADA system helps in supervising, identifying and taking alternative means of ensuring power supply in a very short time.”

Delhi has more vehicles on its roads than Calcutta, Mumbai and Chennai put together. The city’s mass transit system aims to relieve congestion on major commuter routes.

ABB’s solutions for management of power networks and electrical products are helping Delhi Metro Rail Corporation’s commuter trains run smoothly and efficiently, reducing traffic congestion, pollution and road accidents for the long-suffering citizens of India’s capital city.

The Delhi Metro is expected to cut travel time for the city’s commuters by an average of 66 minutes and to have removed 40,000 cars, buses, two-wheelers and auto-rickshaws from Delhi’s roads, reducing CO₂ emissions by nearly 4,000 tons a year.
As of 2007, Delhi Metro operates three lines using 65 kilometers of track and 59 stations in phase I, its air-conditioned coaches carry more than 500,000 people each day. Phase II delivered an additional 124.6 km of track and 83 stations to the network by 2010. It is estimated that the whole network will provide almost 2 million passenger-trips each day.

ABB’s MicroSCADA Pro installations monitor the metro’s field equipment and systems, warning operators of potential faults and giving them time to avoid major repairs and service interruptions, enhancing the lines’ performance and helping to keep costs down.

The system interconnects all stations and ties the main receiving and traction substations to a central control center and a backup control center.

The metro is expected to have removed 40,000 cars, buses, two-wheelers and auto-rickshaws from Delhi’s roads, reducing CO₂ emissions by nearly 4,000 tons a year, and cutting travel time for the city’s commuters by an average of 66 minutes a day.
ABB, Ventyx demonstrate smart grid convergence at DistribuTECH in North America

The slow pace of the global economy did little to quell enthusiasm for emerging technologies at last month’s DistribuTECH exhibition in the United States. With its acquisition of software specialist Ventyx in 2010, and a number of other strategic moves, ABB is now a major player in the development of smarter grids.

DistribuTECH is one of the leading T&D trade shows in North America, with this year’s event attracting a record-breaking 8,500 participants from more than 60 different countries.

The consensus throughout the hallways was that “smart grids” have tangibly moved from the drawing-board to reality with multiple pilot programs, applications and strategic acquisitions and partnerships.

Acquired by ABB in 2010, Ventyx solutions have become an integral part of the ABB portfolio, covering a range of applications, including asset management, mobile workforce management, energy trading, energy operations and energy analytics. The company also provides software solutions, data, and advisory services for planning and forecasting electricity needs and resultant generation options, including nuclear and renewables.

ABB’s existing Network Manager™ solutions and wholesale market operations business were folded into the Ventyx offering, forming a greatly expanded portfolio of network management technologies. With the addition of Insert Key Solutions (asset and operations management) in December 2010, and Obvient Strategies (real-time business intelligence and asset monitoring), in February 2011, ABB has now closed the gap between operational and information technology and is a leading player in the field.

Staking a claim in electric vehicle charging infrastructure

Also on display at DistribuTECH were representatives from ABB’s new partner, ECOtality. In January, 2011, ABB announced a significant investment in this San Francisco-based provider of electric vehicle (EV) charging systems. The companies also signed an agreement establishing ABB as the preferred supplier for ECOtality’s power electronics and component parts in North America. ECOtality is leading the EV Project, a US Department of Energy-funded program to develop electric vehicle infrastructure with the deployment of 15,000 charging stations in 16 US cities.

This development followed a similar announcement made in September. ABB and GM said they would collaborate on an R&D project to explore how the lithium-ion batteries used in hybrid cars might be re-used for energy storage to support peak shaving and provide backup power in the grid.
Elster and ABB announce AMI and DA integration

Other discussions at DistribuTECH showed that much of the smart grid discussion in North America has shifted from its focus on smart meters and advanced meter infrastructure (AMI) to include distribution automation (DA), demand response, and improving the intelligence of grid communications.

To that end, Elster and ABB extended their partnership with a new AMI-DA convergence announcement at DistribuTECH. Combining Elster’s Advanced Grid Infrastructure (AGI) with ABB’s sensor technology, the two companies announced new joint solutions for smart grid development. This includes the integration of Elster’s Alpha-based medium voltage (MV) AGInode monitoring and communications platform with ABB’s new SCC-125 split-core combination voltage and current sensor. The integrated product will provide remote wireless feeder monitoring at the medium-voltage level.

“The conversation has definitely shifted from pure AMI toward distribution grid management, specifically how distribution, demand response and AMI automation technologies can communicate with each other more effectively,” said Gary Rackliffe, one of ABB’s smart grid experts at the event.

“Transmission is still the focus of smart grid initiatives in Europe,” he continued, “but in North America it’s all about distribution and the convergence of IT/OT in network management. That was clear this week at DistribuTECH, and we were pleased to play a part in those ongoing discussions and initiatives.”
Network Manager™ MMS manages advanced wholesale power market in Texas, US

Network Manager™ Market Management System (MMS) is now being used to administer the wholesale power market for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) in the United States. The software has enabled ERCOT, which operates and manages the flow of electrical power to 22 million customers, to establish a nodal electricity market, bringing substantial improvements in operational efficiency, reliability and market economics.

The nodal electricity market system, which went live on Dec. 1, 2010, provides considerable advantages over the zonal system previously used by ERCOT. With ABB’s MMS, which is fully compatible with existing third-party systems, the new market system will deliver more rapid and detailed electricity price calculations and scheduling capability, enabling more effective management of electricity supply and demand. This includes integrating more than 10,000 MW of wind capacity and significant demand response into its market operations. The operational improvements to be gained by the adoption of a nodal system will include improved transparency in the electricity market and substantial cost savings, in the order of $5 billion, over the next 10 years.*

ABB’s MMS, a key component of the new ERCOT nodal system, enables the real-time, hour-ahead, day-ahead and week-ahead market operations for energy and ancillary services and transmission/generation outage scheduling.

The first month of nodal market operations has already yielded savings for the cost of regulation reserves; amounting to $8.52 million less in the first month of ERCOT’s nodal market operations compared to the previous zonal operations in December 2009.*

“We are pleased to see the new nodal market up and running, and are proud of the contribution MMS has made,” said Jens Birgersson, head of ABB’s Network Management business unit. “This is an excellent example of how a well-thought-out market system can improve reliability and reduce costs.”

The new nodal system covers more than 550 generators with an installed capacity of 85,000 MW, 40,000 miles of HV transmission lines and 6,000 buses. ERCOT’s fuel mix comprises mainly natural gas, coal and a rapidly increasing wind portfolio. Other fuels include nuclear, hydro and biomass.

Through its market-leading Market Applications (MA) – such as; Security Constrained Unit Commitment (SCUC), Reliability Commitment (RUC) and Security Constrained Economic Dispatch (SCED), for efficient unit commitment and dispatch, MMS provides improved use of generation resources through least-cost unit-specific commitment and dispatch and more efficient management of transmission congestion through market-based mechanisms. It also provides more accurate price signals for better generation and transmission investment, and improved ability, which enables the efficient and reliable integration of intermittent renewable resources, such as wind and solar generating facilities.

The day-ahead market of ERCOT’s new system was consistently oversubscribed during the first month of its operation, signaling strong participation and competition.

MMS manages approximately 1.5 million transactions a day and involves more than 800 market participants who trade actively in the nodal market which has an annual market value at $34 billion.

The huge volumes of data processed through the MMS make it the backbone of the system for enterprise integration. MMS’ Market Infrastructure (MI) module integrates a wide range of heterogeneous data using a service-oriented approach, utilizing industry standards and technologies such as CIM/XML, JMS and Web services. This includes data such as, congestion revenue rights, prudential risk, bilateral trades, network model, energy/ancillary bids and offers, locational marginal prices, schedules, settlement point prices and market clearing prices.

As a system integrator and solution provider for electricity markets, ABB brings extensive experience from delivering electricity market solutions in the United States, Canada, Europe, Korea, China, Australia and the Philippines. The MMS for ERCOT was developed at ABB’s center of excellence in Santa Clara, California, and integrated into existing business and energy management systems at sites across Texas. The MMS product is part of ABB’s Network Manager suite, now included in the recently acquired Ventyx portfolio.

* According to independent research carried out by Potomac Economics

ABB’s MMS is a key component of the new ERCOT nodal system. It enables real-time, hour-ahead, day-ahead and week-ahead market operations for energy and ancillary services and transmission/generation outage scheduling.
ABB recently attended the European Utility Telecom Conference, 2010, in London, UK, where over 150 delegates and 15 exhibitors spent four days discussing the newest communication solutions and trends for smart grid applications. ABB's booth, focusing on reliability and security through utility communications, attracted a steady flow of visitors from various European utilities. As a leading provider of communications systems for the utilities segment, the conference was an excellent opportunity for ABB to catch up with customers and show them what's new in the field of utility communications.

The European Utility Telecom Conference is the largest gathering of telecommunication and technology executives from Europe's utilities and their technology partners. It is held annually by the European Utility Telecom Council (EUTC), and its programs draw on the Council's 60 years of experience in the field. EUTC programs are led by European experts and concentrate on the needs of European Utilities, many of whom are already customers of ABB. The theme of this year's event, held in October, was “Smart Networks: (R)evolution?” reflecting the current debate over how power systems will develop into the highly automated networks of the future. The event focused on communication solutions and trends for smart grid applications.

ABB was represented at the conference by the Group’s utility communications team, part of the Network Management unit. Dacfeay Dzung from ABB Corporate Research in Switzerland addressed an audience of senior managers and operational engineers from European electrical utilities on the role of communications in the smart grid. He also presented an overview of ABB’s own smart grids pilot projects. The forum provided an opportunity to discuss the benefits and challenges of smart grid applications, sparking discussions about the costs, efficiency and reliability benefits, and the novel solutions needed to support the growth and development of smarter networks.

ABB is a regular participant at the conference and became an event sponsor for the first time in 2010. The ABB booth presented ABB solutions and project details, demonstrating the considerable scope of ABB’s smart grid offering in communication. Specialist presentations on the ABB portfolio were given at the booth. ABB experts spoke various themes, focusing on customers’ needs and interests and participating in active discussions as questions arose. The booth exhibits highlighted the benefits of integrated communications (hybrid and multi-level solutions for critical infrastructure), transmission communications (non-compromise solutions for mission-critical services), and distribution communications (the enabler of smart grids) – all areas in which ABB specializes.

Europe is an important region for us at ABB and we have delivered numerous projects to our European customers. In 2009, we won a contract from Cable & Wireless in the UK, one of the world’s leading international communications companies, to supply a highly complex utility telecommunication system to National Grid UK, and we are the main supplier of communication technologies to European utilities, including ESB (Ireland), Alliander (Netherlands), Stedin (Netherlands) and Gas Natural Fenosa (Spain).

The EUTC is an excellent forum for discussing established and emerging technologies and European trends in utility communication. It is a valuable opportunity for us to interact with our customers, to discuss your needs and understand how we can serve you better. We look forward to seeing you there next year!
Efficiency and sustainability have become key strategies for organizations emerging from the global economic slowdown. So-called "smart" infrastructure is expected to play an important role in reducing waste and improving efficiency in the world’s power systems. In India, the Government has already stated that improving infrastructure will be an area of sharp focus for the future. This includes the pursuit of its ‘Mission 2012: Power to All’ initiative - a comprehensive blueprint that encompasses power generation, transmission, distribution and conservation - to ensure sufficient reliable and quality power at optimum cost.

This apparently ambitious goal is well within the reach of one of the most exciting and potent concepts of all time – "the Smart Grid." ABB’s smart grid technology is helping Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL), the sole Electricity transmission and distribution company in the state of Karnataka, to manage its power system more effectively. As the fastest growing state in India, with the bustling city of Bangalore at its heart, Karnataka's appetite for electricity is voracious.

Ensuring reliable supplies of quality electricity reach customers in the face of spiraling demand is a major challenge, for even the best run utilities.

KPTCL and its constituent distribution utilities have chosen ABB monitoring and control systems to strengthen its entire transmission and distribution network.

The solution is an integrated selection of ABB Network Manager SCADA/ EMS/DMS software and systems (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition/Energy Management System/Distribution Management System), which monitor and report from every part of the network across the entire state.

This provides detailed information on Karnataka's entire transmission and distribution network from a single screen in a single control room in real time, incorporating essential modern energy and distribution management applications.

To make this work, ABB has set up 16 control centers around the network, nearly 900 remote terminal units and wired about one million input/output connections into KPTCL's transmission and distribution grid. These combined systems monitor and control 867 substations scattered across the state, including those in Bangalore.

Further, as an extension to the initial project, ABB will now provide an additional 390 RTUs to bring more network visibility to the control room operators. The linking up of the company's substations stations also includes integration of ABB's Network Manager software with substation automation systems provided by ABB, Areva, Siemens, Suzlon and Easun Rayrole. These systems were integrated into the network as part of the original project, and the entire data acquisition is done using a VSAT satellite communication system, which transmits data from the RTUs (Remote Terminal Units) to the main control centers.

From these control centers, the data is transferred to six ALDCs (Area Load Dispatch Centers) and six DCCs (Distribution Control Centers) using the ICCP (Inter-Control-Center Protocol).

This is the first system of its type and scope to be installed anywhere in the world, and helps KPTCL monitor, control and deliver electricity to roughly 14.6 million customers, across a coverage area of 192,000 sq. km.

The delivered system also includes the energy-billing, energy-audit, and availability-based-tariff applications, which are included in the SCADA system to ensure the successful integration of technical and revenue information. This arrangement not only improves network performance and operational excellence, it also provides information that enables the operators to identify where and how the network is earning revenue.

The combined systems delivered by ABB to KPTCL monitor and control 867 substations scattered across the state, including those in Bangalore.

ABB is helping KPTCL to achieve its mission to provide customers with reliable quality power at an affordable price.

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Ventyx holds first event in the Gulf for Saudi’s Ministry of Water and Electricity

Ventyx and ABB smart grid specialists from Europe and the US hold a workshop for Ministry officials, Saudi Electricity staff, and Saudi’s electricity regulator on the latest smart grid technologies

A team from ABB’s Ventyx European and American operations touched down in Riyadh this December to hold the company’s first workshop in the Gulf region. More than twenty executives from the Saudi Ministry of Water and Electricity, Saudi Electricity Company, the Electricity and Water Regulatory Authority and the National Energy Efficiency Program attended the workshop, which was held on the 15th December.

Following an opening address by Dr Ahmed Khalifa, the undersecretary to the Ministry of Water and Electricity, the Ventyx team presented a number of topics, including presentations on today’s smart grid challenges for utilities, and overcoming the challenges related to information technology and operational technology efficiencies. Ventyx also presented case studies from Boulder in the United States, which was one of the first locations globally to deploy a smart grid system.

“The Gulf region is one where smart grids can bring about massive changes for utilities,” said Charles Goodman, Chief Operating Officer at Ventyx. “We’re delighted to be here, to meet with ministry officials and to engage with them about what a smart grid is and how it can help drive efficiencies and services for consumers and businesses in the Kingdom.”

Goodman was joined at the event by Lars Trogen and David Sallstrom from Ventyx, and ABB Sweden’s smart grid consultant Hakan Johansson.

Hakan Johansson, one of ABB’s smart grid specialists, discusses the potential of intelligent networks for utilities and consumers with executives from the Saudi Ministry of Water and Electricity.
Lab Manager™ used as training system for Network Manager

Ventyx’s network management training centers in Sweden, the US, Germany and India provide courses for customers from all over the world. In spring 2010, a new training system was put into use at the center in Västerås, Sweden. Based on Lab Manager, the software development and testing tool, the new training system now uses the same state-of-the-art environment as the R&D department of Ventyx’s network management unit, giving customers the most up-to-date training ground for product applications.

Ventyx, an ABB company, has four network management training centers, which customers can visit to learn about our products. The centers offer a variety of courses:

Sweden offers the full range of Network Manager courses*
- India offers courses in RTU, SCADA, UDW, PED, DE400, WSS00, ISS00
- Germany offers all Network Manager courses, plus RTU courses
- The US center also offers the full range of Network Manager courses

In early 2010, the Swedish training center switched over to a training system based on Lab Manager, a commercially available virtual software development and testing tool, in place of the numerous physical servers it had been using.

Best-in-class performance
Lab Manager provides a central, virtual environment for network management, enabling the computing capacity of a limited number of computers to be shared across multiple “virtual” machines. Virtualization enhances efficiency and makes the best possible use of IT resources. The Network Management virtual environment in Västerås now hosts 1,100 virtual machines and a server cluster, which can run up to 500 virtual machines online concurrently. Developed by the company VMware, Lab Manager is the most trusted, proven and widely deployed lab management software in the world.

Lab Manager is used for project development, project delivery, training and demonstration purposes, as well as in-house IT systems. Among its many benefits for Ventyx are:
- Its ability to test and verify developed code and system problem reports (SPRs) on the latest release of Ventyx’s Network Manager software
- Compatibility with earlier program systems of Network Manager, which can be kept and used for fault tracing, SPR handling, service, etc.
- It enables developed code to be shared easily between users.
- It allows each trainee to access his/her own Network Manager environment.
- It enables a “delivered” system to be set up before hardware is purchased, improving cash flow, lowering costs for test area, and moving the hardware warranty period forward.
- It reduces energy consumption by reducing the cooling needed and also reduces space requirements.
- It has an easy and automatic backup procedure and runs from an uninterruptible power supply (UPS).

Ventyx’s R&D organizations in Sweden-Västerås, US-Huston, US-Santa Clara, India-Bangalore, Germany-Manheim and Slovakia use the Lab Manager environment and for projects and training, the system is now being adopted in other centers.

The team managing the system
The Central Virtualization System (CVS) team consists of Arvid Edman, IT team leader and two system administrators, Åke Edin and Tony Lehmbeck, all of whom are part of the Ventyx IS/IT department. Their day to day work consists of maintaining the system, which includes installing upgrades, creating base templates, backing up the system and taking care of system security. The team also manages the Lab Manager helpdesk, supporting users in all kinds of tasks and functions related to Lab Manager.

Lab Manager gives us more flexibility
Marita Wallin Andersson works as training coordinator for Network Manager in Västerås, Sweden. She is very happy with the new system and the benefits that come with it.

“It is important for our customers to get the best possible training on how to handle Network Manager,” says Andersson Marita. “The new training environment gives the advantage of being able to switch between software releases quickly. This gives us much more flexibility, and allows customers to train on a system that is very similar to their own.

“Other Ventyx network management training centers are now also using Lab Manager, which will enable us to use a common training environment in the future. The modern, flexible environment provided by Lab Manager delivers all the requirements of a great training system. And great training is what makes the difference between simply keeping a system working and really managing it to achieve the best possible conditions for operation.”

*For a full description of Network Manager courses, please visit: http://www.abb.se/networkmanager
ABB wins order for substation automation and protection in Brazil

In February, ABB won an order worth $16 million to upgrade the automation and protection systems in 25 substations for the Brazilian power distribution utility, Light SA. The order was received in the fourth quarter of 2010 and is part of an extensive modernization program being carried out by the utility in the Rio de Janeiro region. The work will to improve grid reliability and network control in time for the Soccer World Cup in 2014 and the Olympic Games in 2016.

ABB will install substation automation systems comprising a range of protection and control equipment in the substations. Installations will include over 1,250 IEDs (intelligent electronic devices) from the Relion® family, modular relays from the COMBIFLEX® range and a MicroSCADA Pro supervisory system. The project is scheduled for completion by 2013.

ABB's protection, control, measuring and supervision devices are fully compliant with the international standard for substation automation, IEC 61850. This standard ensures full interoperability between substation automation devices, irrespective of manufacturer, and, coupled with the modular design of ABB's products, provides full flexibility for future extensions to existing infrastructure.

“This solution will help improve reliability of power supplies and grid stability in the metropolitan area of Rio de Janeiro,” said Jens Birgersson, head of ABB's Network Management business within the company’s Power Systems division. “The system will also enable remote monitoring and control of the substations bringing efficiency and cost savings to the customer”.

Light SA is Brazil's fourth largest electricity distribution company. It distributes electricity across one quarter of the state of Rio de Janeiro, an area 10,970 km², serving approximately 3.9 million customers.

ABB adds business intelligence to software offering with Obvient acquisition

In January, ABB announced their acquisition of Obvient Strategies Inc., a privately owned specialist software provider based in Atlanta, adding Obvient's solutions to its recently acquired Ventyx software portfolio. The transaction will further enhance ABB’s software offering for asset management, power distribution automation and smart grid applications.

Obvient offers software and services for industries and utilities with geographically dispersed assets. The company’s business intelligence software collects, analyzes and reports critical real-time and periodic information. This supports decision making and helps users to optimize operations. As well as helping to manage complex operations, the solutions also reduce operating costs and improve asset reliability. Obvient’s unique products compile the power transmission and distribution sector’s best business practices into prepackaged solutions. This enables companies to monitor and manage their distributed assets more effectively, on a real-time and event-driven basis.

“The Obvient portfolio is highly complementary to our own software solutions for the power sector,” said Jens Birgersson, head of ABB's Network Management business within ABB's Power Systems division. “It significantly strengthens our software-based solutions, enabling us to provide better service to our customers, from asset health and customer care to distribution and outage management.”

ABB has retained to retain the Obvient team and placed its executives in key roles within the Ventyx product management organization. The company has offices near Atlanta, Georgia, and a staff of 40.

“We are delighted to join the global ABB family. We have already worked together on a number of projects and joining our complementary portfolios makes perfect sense,” said Ray Kasten, president and CEO of Obvient Strategies. “This move will enable Obvient to enhance support for our rapidly growing customer base while accelerating our product development initiatives.”
ABB acquires Insert Key Solutions to further strengthen software offering

In December, ABB acquired Insert Key Solutions (IKS), a privately owned specialist software provider, adding IKS’ solutions to its recently acquired Ventyx software portfolio. The move will create a comprehensive solution set for asset and work management, maintenance optimization, and equipment reliability.

Based in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, in the United States, IKS specializes in delivering software solutions for process improvement, increased equipment reliability and operational performance in power generation plants, as well as transmission and distribution networks. The company has an extensive customer base in the thermal and nuclear power sectors, and a staff of 50 people.

“We are excited to become a part of the Ventyx team and the ABB family. We not only share complementary solutions, but also the same dedication to excellence and customer focus,” said Evan Niemkiewicz, President and CEO of Insert Key Solutions. “This integration enables us to fortify our infrastructure and product life-cycles and to take our solutions to a broader set of industries and geographies. I am confident it is the best path forward for our customers and our company.”

ABB has retained the IKS team and placed IKS executives in key roles within the Ventyx team responsible for Asset Suite, eSOMS (asset and operations management software), and IKS solutions.

“In Insert Key Solutions provides a highly complementary offering to our solutions for the power industry,” said Jens Birgersson, head of the Network Management business within ABB’s Power Systems division. “It significantly strengthens our software-based solutions, which optimize equipment reliability, asset health and maintenance services for asset-intensive industries.”

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