



February 4, 2009

Photo Release -- Orion Launches Energy Efficient Parking Lot Lighting Solution

Efficient Fixtures to Reduce Customers' Energy Costs, Deliver Better Light and Provide Base Load Capacity to Utilities as Energy Demand Grows

MANITOWOC, Wis., Feb 4, 2009 (GlobeNewswire via COMTEX News Network) -- Orion Energy Systems Inc. (Nasdaq:OESX) has developed an innovative parking lot lighting system designed to take energy savings and better lighting outdoors.

Photos accompanying this release are available at <http://www.globenewswire.com/newsroom/prs/?pkgid=5853>

and <http://www.globenewswire.com/newsroom/prs/?pkgid=5854>

The fixture boasts fluorescent lamps that reduce users' energy consumption by 50 percent or more while significantly increasing light levels in comparison to the legacy high-intensity discharge lights that are used in most parking lots today.

Orion expanded its product line to include the outdoor fixture as another substantial way to help customers save on light-related energy costs. It is estimated that there are well over 20 million parking lot lights nationwide. According to a study conducted for the U.S. Department of Energy, only 4 percent of the parking lot lights in the U.S. are energy efficient fluorescent fixtures. As a result, parking lot lights consume a staggering 22.2 billion kilowatt-hours per year, which could be reduced by 50 percent or more with Orion's technology.

Orion's President and CEO Neal Verfuert said the lights will help decrease a company's energy costs and provide excess capacity to utilities during nighttime hours.

"This is going to be significant," Verfuert said. "Typically, power during non-peak hours, or night hours, is in excess, but that will change over time as more demand is required overnight. Just like daytime hours, we're going to need more electricity during non-peak hours. In fact, we envision a day when load reduced in the evenings and nighttime will be deployed to power electric vehicles."

"The new parking lot system is an economically viable solution to parking lot lighting," said Mike Potts, Orion Energy Systems executive vice president. "Like all Orion technology, it's developed to not only provide substantial energy savings, but to do it without compromise to current operations or systems. Our customers' parking lots will be illuminated with a whiter, brighter light which means a safer environment for their guests and employees."

The fixture is designed to operate in extreme hot and cold conditions and will be tested later this month by Underwriters Laboratories (UL). It is expected to earn a wet location rating, similar to the rating attained by Orion's wet location fixture, which was designed for wet environments like the brewing, beverage and food service industries.

Mounting brackets will be available for all standard pole mounts and wall mounts. The angle of the lights can be changed onsite based on the customer's outdoor lighting needs.

Companies using Orion's products are an integral part of helping local utilities displace electricity capacity and reduce strain on the electrical grid. Orion has deployed its energy management systems in 4,387 facilities across North America. Since 2001, Orion technology has displaced more than 423 megawatts, saving customers more than \$514 million and reducing indirect carbon dioxide emissions by 4.3 million tons. Orion's technology was recently recognized with a Platts Global Energy Award for the single most innovative and sustainable green technology of 2008.

For more information about Orion Energy Systems' parking lot technology, please call (877) 204-7540.

About Orion Energy Systems Inc.

Orion Energy Systems Inc. (Nasdaq:OESX) is a leading power technology enterprise that designs, manufactures and implements energy management systems, consisting primarily of high-performance, energy-efficient lighting systems, controls and related services for commercial and industrial customers without compromising their quantity or quality of light. For more information, visit www.oesx.com.

The Orion Energy Systems, Inc. logo is available at <http://www.globenewswire.com/newsroom/prs/?pkgid=4540>

(Photo: <http://www.primezone.com/newsroom/prs/?pkgid=>)

(Photo: <http://www.primezone.com/newsroom/prs/?pkgid=>)

The photos are also available at Newscom, www.newscom.com, and via AP PhotoExpress.

This news release was distributed by GlobeNewswire, www.globenewswire.com

SOURCE: Orion Energy Systems, Inc.

Orion Energy Systems Inc.

Media Contact

Linda Diedrich, Director Corporate Communications

(920) 482-1988

ljd@oes1.com

(C) Copyright 2009 GlobeNewswire, Inc. All rights reserved.

News Provided by COMTEX