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Wilson's high-power amplifier boosts Alliant Energy's wireless iDEN network

Alliant Energy Corporation installs more than 1,200 units in fleet's service vehicles

St. George, UT 2007 – Wilson Electronics supplied Alliant Energy Corporation with new high-power iDEN signal boosters for the utility's fleet of service and maintenance vehicles to improve their mobile communications. After installation and a lengthy test period, Alliant's service representatives reported significantly improved communication, including enhanced signal range, fewer dropped calls and overall improvement in the quality of voice and data transmission and reception.

Alliant Energy, a Madison, Wisconsin-based utility, serves more than a million electric and 400,000 natural gas customers in the Midwest. Prior to Wilson's involvement, its wireless network was not functioning at the anticipated quality level among the company's offices and its fleet of more than 1,200 service vehicles. Alliant uses a 104-cell-tower system to cover its 55,000 square-mile service area.

Alliant opts for amplifiers and antennas over new cell towers

Initially, Alliant executives considered constructing additional cell towers, but such a solution was cost-prohibitive. They then turned to the option of mobile signal amplifiers and antennas for individual vehicles. Initial tests of products from several companies proved unimpressive, but further research led to Wilson Electronics whose product line was different than anything Alliant had seen thus far for their iDEN network.

Wilson technical specialists analyzed Alliant's situation and recommended equipping the utility's field service vehicles with high-power iDEN amplifiers. Wilson provided Alliant with several units for testing and Alliant installed them in vehicles in a variety of locations throughout its service territory. These included problem spots in hilly terrain as well as areas with heavy tree cover. In addition, Alliant had some issues in relatively flat, unobstructed regions where employees experienced interference from outside signals.

Amplifiers pass testing, greatly improve signal quality for voice and data

Test results were positive. "The boosters did what we wanted them to do," reports Mike Powers, Alliant's manager of telecommunications. He and other members of Alliant's management team then visited Wilson's design and manufacturing facility in St. George, Utah, to increase their familiarity with the company and its products. They learned that Wilson's high-power iDEN amplifiers are specifically engineered for use with Nextel, Southern LINC, Mike and Motorola private iDEN systems. They amplify only on the data stream to keep power consumption low and they feature the high linearity required for 16-QAM modulation.

Like all Wilson amplifier models, the high-power iDEN unit employs the Company's Smart Technology™ that regulates power output to protect cell sites from potentially harmful interference or affecting other users on the system. In addition, its added power (5 watts maximum) helps to compensate for the 3-5 dB signal loss associated with phone-cradle car kits such as those that Alliant uses in its vehicles to facilitate hands-free operation for drivers; a very important safety consideration.

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Amplifiers provide a cost-effective solution

Ultimately, Alliant decided to implement Wilson's recommendation for installation of more than 1,200 signal boosters in their large fleet of service vehicles. Wilson provided a system warranty as a guarantee of satisfaction, and deployment of the amplifiers took place in July and August 2006 throughout Alliant's service areas in Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota. Improved coverage and higher signal quality were evident immediately. According to Mike Powers, "The Wilson amplifiers are proving to be an effective solution from both a cost and a performance standpoint."

The Alliant project is just one of many success stories that have propelled Wilson Electronics to the top of its industry. The company's amplifiers, antennas and related components are improving wireless communication in hundreds of thousands of homes, offices, commercial buildings, trucks, RV's, public service vehicles and private automobiles throughout North and South America.

Wilson manufactures a wide range of amplifiers, antennas and accessories for cellular signal improvement in both mobile and in-building applications. For more information about Wilson's new products, or product samples for review, visit them at the CTIA Wireless 2007, Orlando, Florida, Booth #5563 in the West Building, Hall D-1 (near the CTIA Wireless Building).

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About Wilson Electronics Inc.

Located in St. George, Utah, Wilson Electronics, Inc. has been a leader in the wireless communications industry for nearly 40 years. With expertise in RF antenna and amplifier research and development, the experienced Wilson engineering team uses a state-of-the-art testing laboratory, including an anechoic chamber and network analyzers, to fine tune antenna designs and performance. For amplifiers, Wilson uses double electrically insulated RF enclosures and cell site simulators for compliance testing. Manufactured in the USA, all Wilson products are designed and tested to the highest quality standards possible. For more information, please call (800) 204-4104, email info@wilsonelectronics.com or visit www.wilsonelectronics.com.