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[July 03, 2009]

Digi Releases ZigBee Smart Energy Certified ESP Gateway

Jul 03, 2009 (Close-Up Media via COMTEX) -- Digi International announced it has introduced a Smart Energy product family, including what it said is the industry's first ZigBee Smart Energy ready modules and certified Energy Service Portal (ESP) gateways built on these modules.

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The ZigBee Smart Energy public profile defines how a collection of devices works cooperatively within a network, enabling utilities to manage energy loads, monitor energy use and optimize consumption. As a device communication standard for home area networks (HANs) selected by the U.S. Department of Energy in their initial standards framework for Smart Grid development, ZigBee Smart Energy is a technology for addressing America's energy management needs.

Digi reported its ZigBee Smart Energy product family includes the XBee and XBee-PRO SE ZigBee modules and ConnectPort X2 ESP certified gateway. Built upon the existing XBee and XBee-PRO ZB, the new XBee and XBee-PRO SE modules feature firmware for the development work required to develop and certify a ZigBee Smart Energy device. The ConnectPort X2 ESP gateway provides the connection between a consumer's HAN and an energy service provider over a broadband or cellular connection.

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"We developed a new programmable and controllable thermostat using the XBee SE module," said Michael Kuhlmann, president, Residential Control Systems. "The XBee SE module made the development process easy and reduced development time of our product by almost half." "Digi is taking a leadership role in creating the Smart Grid," said Joe Dunsmore, CEO, Digi International. "Our March launch of iDigi Energy allows for creating wireless energy management applications. And now with this Smart Energy launch, our OEM customers can quickly create the interoperable thermostats, in-home energy displays, metering devices and load controllers needed to make the Smart Grid a reality." Digi ZigBee Smart Energy products reported it also expand the recently launched iDigi Energy wireless M2M solutions bundle, which features the hardware, hosted software and services necessary to integrate Smart Grid devices. iDigi now includes Smart Energy ready hardware as well as Smart Energy software support through the iDigi platform, a Platform as a Service (PaaS) that connects remote assets to a customer's applications.

The ConnectPort X2 ESP enables energy service providers to deploy HAN devices that are completely managed by the Digi gateway over a broadband or cellular connection, allowing Smart Grid services to be deployed in areas not covered by Smart Metering networks. Once a Smart Meter is installed, the gateway can join that network providing programmable energy services in the home and secondary communication paths over public networks for enhanced energy service offerings. The ConnectPort X2 ESP was tested and certified using National Technical Systems' (NTS) ZigBee Smart Energy (SE) Test Harness.

((Comments on this story may be sent to newsdesk@closeupmedia.com))

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- ▣ CIS MAGAZINE
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