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Amperion B-PLC to help American Electric Power transition to smart grid

August 31, 2011 — 8:37am ET | By [Barbara Vergetis Lundin](#)

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American Electric Power (AEP) has selected Amperion to provide smart grid solutions based on its Broadband Power Line Carrier (B-PLC) technology. The utility plans to use Amperion's B-PLC products as a replacement strategy for aging pilot wire technology in 69kV line protection and control applications. The first commercial deployment includes replacement of pilot wire systems with B-PLC and the upgrade of electro-mechanical relays with digital solid state relays from two prominent relay suppliers.

"The Broadband Power Line Carrier technology provides a cost-effective and immediately available option for advanced substation communications," Nachum Sadan, President and CEO of Amperion, told *FierceSmartGrid*. "B-PLC enables the utilities to modernize their substations, deploy new line protection and control capabilities, enhance their substation automation, expand their SCADA coverage, improve reliability, and make their transmission grid smarter."

B-PLC replaces older, less reliable and more expensive technologies such as copper-based pilot wire and leased lines, according to Sadan, and provides OPEX savings by reducing cost of communications while improving the quality of the service at the same time.

"B-PLC will accelerate the transmission smart grid since there is no need to wait for availability of fiber. Since B-PLC operates on the transmission wires and leverages the existing utility infrastructure it is readily available," Sadan said.

Utilities can start deploying new smart grid applications right away and backhaul data from devices inside the substation using Broadband PLC.

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"The future smart grid is an evolution and B-PLC is a technology that will help the utility transition from the current state to a future smart grid state in a gradual and cost-effective way," said Sadan.

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