



GE's MDS™ Orbit Platform to help SouthernLINC Wireless step up to NextGen communications solutions

- A 5-year agreement provides GE's next-generation industrial communications solution, MDS™ Orbit, to SouthernLINC Wireless
- MDS™ Orbit will help SouthernLINC reduce costs as it increases efficiency and reliability
- Providing improved service for over 4 million customers

ATLANTA – May 04, 2016 – GE (NYSE: [GE](#)) announced a five-year agreement to provide its MDS™ Orbit technology to Southern Company subsidiary, SouthernLINC Wireless. The integrated MDS™ Orbit platform and router solution helps provide more secure and reliable, high-speed, industrial-grade wireless communications essential to today's intelligent electricity networks. Central to the design, and to its flexibility, is the latest generation in Long Term Evolution (LTE)¹ technology. Once installed, Orbit will enable Southern Company's four electric utilities to manage services more effectively for over four million customers across the Southeast.

MDS™ Orbit will support Southern Company's need for adaptability, superior encryption, speed and range, while reducing network complexity. Its advanced networking capabilities enable each utility to remain highly flexible, helping optimize performance. At the same time, it complies with NERC-CIP² and other cyber security regulatory guidelines. Multiple interfaces will simultaneously connect both transmission and distribution assets, along with maintenance vehicles and personnel for Southern Company utilities – Alabama Power, Georgia Power, Mississippi Power and Gulf Power.

SouthernLINC Wireless will deploy the MDS™ Orbit platform and routers in conjunction with MDS™ PulseNET, GE's network management software. In addition to device and network management, PulseNET will give SouthernLINC the ability to auto-provision Orbit routers, with no human intervention, on its LTE network.

"We chose GE's Orbit platform because it met the LTE project and operational requirements for our operating company's mission critical wireless communications needs. We are pleased with the Orbit platform's adaptability and with GE's commitment to meet our ever-changing security and performance needs," said Tom Newdome, SouthernLINC Wireless Engineering Director. *"We are excited to be working with GE to improve wireless communication capabilities at Southern Company."*

"GE is thrilled to work with SouthernLINC on this industry-leading network upgrade project," said Luke Clemente, General Manager of Industrial Communications, a division of GE's Grid Solutions. *"Our long history of quality, combined with our technical expertise enables us to truly partner with SouthernLINC; delivering a tailored hardware, firmware and software solution for consistent, reliable and secure network across the Southern Company subsidiaries. MDS™ Orbit technology offers a highly flexible multi-radio wireless communications platform which, when combined with GE's Predix Machine, serves as an ideal platform for the Industrial Internet and facilitates future innovations with SouthernLINC."*

Find out more information on this product as well as GE's Grid, Telecommunications and Battery Charging Solutions at [UTC Telecom](#) from May 3-6.

¹ Long Term Evolution (LTE) technology is a 4G wireless broadband technology, representing the progression from 2G and 3G technologies

² North American Electric Reliability Corporation - Critical Infrastructure Protection is a set of standards and requirements for protecting critical assets used in the bulk electric system and the systems that support those assets.



About GE

GE (NYSE: [GE](#)) is the world's Digital Industrial Company, transforming industry with software-defined machines and solutions that are connected, responsive and predictive. GE is organized around a global exchange of knowledge, the "GE Store," through which each business shares and accesses the same technology, markets, structure and intellect. Each invention further fuels innovation and application across our industrial sectors. With people, services, technology and scale, GE delivers better outcomes for customers by speaking the language of industry. www.ge.com

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GE Energy Connections designs and deploys industry-leading technologies that turn the world on. We transport, convert, automate and optimize energy to ensure we provide safe, efficient and reliable electrical power. Uniting all the resources and scale of the world's first digital industrial company, we connect brilliant machines, grids, and systems to power utility, oil and gas, marine, mining and renewables customers, that keep our world running. www.GEEnergyConnections.com

About GE's Grid Solutions

Grid Solutions, a GE and Alstom joint venture, equips 90% of power utilities worldwide to bring power from the point of generation to end power consumers. With over 200 years combined experience in providing advanced energy solutions, our products and services enable more resilient, efficient and reliable power systems. Over 20,000 employees in 80 countries work to satisfy our customers globally. For more information, visit www.GEGridSolutions.com

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