

## ABB infrastructure at heart of Silicon Valley Power's public Wi-Fi network

**Based on Tropos wireless communication systems technology and products, new network provides free outdoor Wi-Fi access throughout Santa Clara, California**

**Raleigh, NC, March 27, 2013** – ABB, the leading power and automation technology group, today announced that Silicon Valley Power (SVP), the City of Santa Clara's municipal electric utility, has opened its Tropos field area communications network to provide free public outdoor Wi-Fi access throughout its service territory. The network, based on technology and products from ABB's Tropos wireless communication systems, was initially installed to provide communications for SVP's smart grid program, SVP MeterConnect<sup>SM</sup>. It is the first electric power Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) network in the nation to support free citywide public Wi-Fi access.

SVP built their wireless network using equipment and software from Tropos Networks, which was subsequently acquired by ABB. More than 1,000 customers in over 50 countries around the world have deployed networks from Tropos. Using patented cognitive radio technologies to ensure reliable operation in unlicensed spectrum, Tropos networks deployed in similar situations have been proven to provide more than 1 TB per day in aggregate user data transfer to an ever increasing number of Wi-Fi enabled consumer devices from smart phones to personal tablets.

By making the network available to the public, SVP has enabled residents and visitors to use client devices such as laptops, tablets and smartphones with standard Wi-Fi connections to access the internet throughout the outdoor areas of Santa Clara. Replacing an outdated and limited system that only served parts of the city, Santa Clara Free Wi-Fi provides access to residents as well as the tens of thousands of workers who commute to the city to work for companies that form the cornerstone of the high-tech industry.

"We are excited that Silicon Valley Power has chosen to open its Tropos network to Santa Clara residents and visitors, including many of our local employees," said Tom Ayers, president and chief executive officer, Tropos Networks. "Customers have demonstrated time and again that the best return on an investment in a Tropos network is achieved when it is used to support multiple applications. We are pleased that SVP will now experience these benefits by adding public internet access to its growing list of applications."

The SVP MeterConnect program includes the Tropos field area communications network and an AMI system. In addition to supporting AMI and public Wi-Fi access, SVP plans to eventually use the Tropos network to support additional smart grid applications, including distribution automation and mobile workers. In the future, the City plans to use the same network to provide mobile access for municipal field workers (public safety, building and fire inspectors, parks and recreation, and more), reducing operational costs versus cellular cards and delivering greater bandwidth.

ABB ([www.abb.com](http://www.abb.com)) is a leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility and industry customers to improve performance while lowering environmental impact. The ABB Group of companies operates in around 100 countries and employs about 147,000 people. The company's North American operations, headquartered in Cary, North Carolina, employ about 27,000 people in multiple manufacturing, service and other major facilities.

# Press Release



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