



Power train firm wins hybrid contract

By JOSEPH SZCZESNY
Of The Oakland Press

December 20, 2007 - OAK PARK, MI - Azure Dynamics Corp. of Oak Park has won a major contract to supply specially built hybrid power trains for vehicles operated by a Florida-based utility company.

Scott Harrison, Azure's chief executive officer, said the company has signed a commercial development and cooperation agreement with Florida Power and Light. "Florida Power and Light continue to show their environmental leadership by working with Azure to test and verify the environmental and economic benefits of hybrid-drive technology," Harrison said.

"Adding a utility with the national reputation of FPL verifies the versatility and broad application of our hybrid electric Ford F-450-based solution. We couldn't be more pleased to have them on board as our fourth lead customer," he said.

Azure will deliver a gasoline parallel hybrid-electric Ford F-450-based vehicle for viability validation, testing and demonstration within the FPL fleet, Harrison said.

The parallel hybrid-electric demonstration vehicle will be used to verify the fuel-economy improvements, emissions reductions and maintenance cost savings that can be achieved using Azure's patented technology. Successful completion of the program will result in the company becoming a lead customer for Azure's hybrid technology on the Ford F-450 chassis. FPL currently runs a fleet of about 3,400 vehicles.

With a growing presence in 27 states and annual revenues of nearly \$16 billion, the FPL Group is recognized as one of the country's premier power companies. Its principal subsidiary, Florida Power & Light Co., serves 4.5 million customer accounts in Florida. FPL Energy LLC, an FPL Group competitive energy subsidiary, also is a leader in producing electricity from renewable fuels.

Azure Dynamics, which earlier this past summer shifted its headquarters from Toronto to Oakland County, is a leader in the development and production of hybrid-electric and electric components and power train systems for commercial vehicles.

The company is targeting the commercial delivery vehicle and shuttle bus markets and is currently working internationally with various partners and customers. It also is committed to providing customers and partners with innovative, cost efficient and environmentally friendly energy management solutions, Harrison said.

Meanwhile, the Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association said Wednesday that new legislation raising fuel-efficiency standards recognizes the role of suppliers in making vehicles more fuel efficient.

"With the industry's significant spending on research and development, parts suppliers are uniquely poised to help meet these new standards," said Bob McKenna, MEMA president and chief executive.

"We are committed to working with car and truck manufacturers in exploring new technology, and recognize the need for continued work with Congress and the administration on further policy necessary to meet the objectives of this legislation."

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