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Maxwell Introduces Ultracapacitor-Based Backup Power Module for UPS Systems

Maxwell Technologies, Inc. announced that it is introducing a 56V ultracapacitor module designed specifically to address the short-term ride-through and bridge power requirements of uninterruptible power supply (UPS) systems for mission-critical installations such as data centers, hospitals, factories and telecommunication facilities.

Maxwell developed the UPS module in consultation with leading UPS system integrators to mitigate the effects of brief power disturbances on digital systems and sensitive medical and manufacturing equipment, and to provide bridge power to a generator or other long-term backup power source in the event of a complete power outage. The new product is being installed in several beta sites and the company will begin accepting additional orders in March, 2011.

Key features and benefits include: maintenance-free operation and estimated 14-year life ensure low cost of ownership; 3U and 4U rack-mount form factors for easy integration into standard equipment racks; available in 4, 5, 6.5 and 10kW versions to easily configure for UPS system requirements; the Series is connectable for systems requiring up to 750V; rugged construction meets IBC Zone 4 earthquake resistance standard; and green technology with no heavy metals or toxic substances requiring special recycling.

"The energy storage segment of the global UPS market is valued at nearly \$1 billion a year, so it represents an attractive opportunity for our products," said Van Andrews, Maxwell's Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing. "The vast majority of power disturbances last a second or less, so ultracapacitors provide an excellent technical solution for the application, and their projected 14-year life in a typical UPS installation makes for a very compelling value proposition."

Unlike batteries, which produce and store energy by means of a chemical reaction, Maxwell's BOOSTCAP® ultracapacitor products store energy in an electric field. This electrostatic energy storage mechanism enables ultracapacitors to charge and discharge in as little as fractions of a second, perform normally over a broad temperature range (-40 to +65°C), operate reliably through one million or more charge/discharge cycles and resist shock, vibration and overcharging. Maxwell offers ultracapacitor cells ranging in capacitance from 5 to 3,000 farads and multi-cell modules ranging from 16 to 125V.