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InfoNetrix Announces Study on Distributed Asset Management Solutions

(New Orleans) June 22, 2005 – InfoNetrix (www.InfoNetrix.com), the leading technical market research and consulting firm specialized in utility automation and information technology (IT) market intelligence, is pleased to announce a new study entitled, “*Distributed Asset Management Solutions (DAMS) in the North American Utility Marketplace (2005-2008)*.”

This strategically focused market intelligence initiative – the first of its kind to address the burgeoning *distributed assets* component of the utility marketplace – will draw upon a comprehensive body of primary and secondary research to bring a utility automation perspective to asset management that has previously been absent from the market intelligence landscape.

According to Mike Marullo, InfoNetrix Principal and Director of Research & Consulting, “Asset management is among the fastest growing strategic interest areas among utilities of all sizes, types and locations throughout the United States and Canada. However, little if any consensus exists on the definition of asset management when used in the *utility automation* context, especially as regards project planning and expenditures for distributed facilities such as electric power transmission and distribution (T&D) networks, substations and switch yards; gas distribution pipelines and storage facilities; and water/wastewater pipelines and pump/lift stations. This study was developed and launched for the express purpose of addressing and filling those voids,” Marullo said.

Asset management in central facilities such as power generating plants, gas processing facilities, and water/wastewater purification and treatment plants has gained significant momentum over the past several years with major initiatives already under way among utilities large and small. Yet although there is broad agreement (among utilities and suppliers alike) that asset management will play an important role in how legacy automation systems and new utility automation solutions are implemented in distributed and often remote facilities, considerable

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confusion exists regarding asset management for those facilities as well as a growing body of unanswered questions about its impact on automation... and vice-versa.

The many questions to be addressed by this study include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- What is the practical definition of *Distributed Asset Management* for utilities?**
- Why is so important for utilities to adopt Asset Management as a key business objective?**
- What are the main cost/implementation issues surrounding Distributed Asset Management?**
- What is the future role of Distributed Asset Management in utility automation and IT projects?**
- What are the market drivers, issues and trends surrounding Distributed Asset Management?**
- What is the future market outlook and growth profile for Distributed Asset Management?**
- How will the Distributed Asset Management supplier environment evolve in the next 2-3 years?**
- What are the critical factors for success in the Distributed Asset Management marketplace?**

“Asset management is poised to affect virtually every dimension of utility automation/IT markets in the coming years as utilities strive to bring real-time data from remote/distributed operations into line with key business and financial objectives and regulatory compliance strategies,” added Mary Ann Stewart, PE, InfoNetrix lead market analyst for the study. “The completion of the study and report publication in mid-September will provide a timely correlation with business planning for 2006 and beyond,” Stewart concluded.

InfoNetrix *Market Horizons™* reports provide reliable, actionable market intelligence rendered in a clear and comprehensive format. These strategic tools are referenced and applied daily by top executives and decision-makers among the world’s most prominent utility automation/IT firms. Others with utility automation interests also rely on InfoNetrix whenever the occasion calls for evaluating current or future market conditions and making sound strategic market decisions.

(To request a prospectus, contact InfoNetrix at 504-466-3460 or send your request via email to: Info@InfoNetrix.com with *DAMS Prospectus* in the subject line of the email.)

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About InfoNetrix

InfoNetrix LLC is a market research and consulting firm based in New Orleans, Louisiana. The firm’s *InfoNetrix Advisory Services (IAS)* market intelligence programs serve a diverse client base that includes energy and utility automation suppliers; energy companies; electric, gas and water/wastewater utilities; technical and financial consulting firms; and others with *Utility Automation & Information Technology* market interests.