



For immediate publication

Press Release

CG announces new smart grid facility in France

- **New Smart Meter production facility in Grenoble**
- **Over 2 million ZIV smart meters p.a**
- **Products: ZIV single and three phase Linky G1 and G3 meters**

Paris, November 19, 2014: Avantha Group Company CG will be opening a new facility in Grenoble to produce, test and calibrate over 2 million ZIV smart meters per year. CG has chosen Grenoble to open this new facility, so as to cover the demand for Linky meters in France, and thereby provide local support to ERDF. The company recently won an order from ERDF to participate in the supply of three million Linky smart meters, in the first phase of its 35 million unit rollout plan for 2021.

This facility will house the Centre of Excellence for G3-PLC technology, be fully equipped to manufacture ZIV single and three phase Linky G1 and G3 meters, and will be ready to produce the first units by the second quarter of 2015. CG will also contribute to the creation of sustainable local employment, as this centre will make available, around 200 direct and indirect jobs in the area, once full production capacity is reached.

The Grenoble manufacturing facility, together with the existing facilities in Spain, will enable CG to face new challenges from large-scale deployments in France, UK, Spain, the Netherlands and other countries in the area with greater agility. Europe's smart metering market is expected to grow sharply and hit 180 million units by 2020. The overall Distribution Automation market in Europe is expected to reach over 800 M\$ by 2018. CG's ZIV smart meters are gaining a strategic position in the Smart Grid European market where it has achieved key wins in 2014.

According to ERDF, the Linky program is a major industrial program that will create 10,000 jobs in France. By modernizing the distribution grid, this program will be beneficial to consumers by enabling them to better understand their electricity bills and reduce consumption, thereby preserve the environment by means of a more efficient grid management.

CG, after acquiring ZIV, has become a key provider of smart meters and an important player in the global smart grid market where it offers ZIV meters, data concentrator units (DCUs) and distribution automation solutions (DAS). The company has built its competitive strategy in the development of smart grid solutions under the ZIV brand, based on its own technology, and a unique mix of technical knowhow in protection, control, communications and metering technologies. Furthermore, CG has broadened the coverage of its smart grid portfolio with an ambitious catalogue of Distribution Automation Solutions that range from LV supervision to MV automation, including Overhead MV Line Automation, Compact Secondary Substations and Micro-grid Management and Electric Vehicle Charging Systems.

Ms Muriel PENICAUD, Chairman & CEO of the Invest in France Agency (AFII) said, "I am glad our Paris and New Delhi teams supported CG in their investment program. CG's smart grid project in Grenoble is of strategic scale, it further endorses the expertise of France in the electric field. France ranks second worldwide for the quality of its electricity, availability and access. It also highlights the attractiveness of the French territory for collaborative, innovative and industrial projects, and places France as a 'hub' for exports in the Euromed region."

Commenting on this development **Mr Joëlle Seux, Director, AEPI** said, "CG's new facility in Grenoble validates the positioning of the city as a leader in Smart Grids. On behalf of all local agencies in France, we welcome CG, a global pioneer in electrical energy and look forward to their contribution towards new solutions for more efficient management of energy networks."

Mr Bernard Lassus, Director of the Linky Program, congratulated Avantha Group Company CG on the opening of this new facility in Grenoble and said: "The Linky Program is a major industrial project that will create up to 10,000 jobs in France. With these smart meters, ERDF takes part in the digital revolution and supports the deployment of smart grids in France."

Avantha Group Company CG's CEO and Managing Director Laurent Demortier said: "We are pleased to be setting up this new world-class facility in Grenoble, in a country known for its outstanding technological and academic environment. This significant stride is perfectly in keeping with CG's ambitious plans of further developing the Linky program. The challenges ahead notwithstanding, we remain focused on making the smart grid a tangible reality by providing solutions born from innovation. In keeping with this aim, Grenoble serves as the best choice in providing high-level technology and flexible solutions as a first-class supplier of G3-PLC based products."

About CG

Avantha Group Company CG is a global pioneering leader in the management and application of electrical energy. With more than 15,000 employees across its operations in around 85 countries, CG provides electrical products, systems and services for utilities, power generation, industries, and consumers. The company is organized into four business groups: Power, Industrial, Automation, and Consumer. CG clocks US\$ 2.3 billion in revenues from product lines that cover the entire value chain of engineering offerings.

About ZIV

*CG, after acquiring ZIV, is the key provider of smart meters in Spain and an important player in the global smart grid market where it offers ZIV meters, data concentrator units (DCU) and distribution automation solutions (DAS). CG's smart grid offerings include self-healing and adaptive restoration systems that detect and isolate faults and restore power to the maximum number of customers. Systems are self-adaptive to handle multiple cascaded fault scenarios. Headquartered in Bilbao, Spain, CG hosts the center of excellence for the development of **smart grid solutions commercialized under the ZIV® brand**.*

For more information on CG, please visit: www.cgglobal.com.

About Avantha

The Rs. 25,000 crores (US\$4bn) Avantha Group is one of India's leading business conglomerates. Its successful entities in diversified sectors include Crompton Greaves (power transmission and distribution equipment and services), BILT (paper and pulp), The Global Green Company Limited (food processing), Biltech Building Elements Limited (infrastructure), Avantha Power (energy), Salient Business Solutions Limited (IT and ITES), Jg Glass (glass containers)

With a global footprint, the Group operates in 90 countries with more than 25,000 employees worldwide. Led by Gautam Thapar, Avantha demonstrates strong leadership globally and emerges as a focused corporate, leveraging its knowledge, leadership and operations, adding lasting value for its stakeholders and investors.

For more information on Avantha, please visit : www.avanthagroup.com.

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