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News from Utilicom

New Energy Partnership for Birmingham

On 6 December Utilicom Ltd. concluded a deal with Birmingham City Council for the delivery of a new district energy scheme in Birmingham's City Centre.

The Broad Street District Energy Scheme will serve many of Birmingham's most prominent and prestigious buildings including:-

- The International Conference Centre (ICC)
- The National Indoor Arena (NIA)
- The Town Hall – a Grade 1 listed building
- The Council House – a Grade 2 listed building
- Hyatt Regency Hotel
- Paradise Circus – Leisure and retail area
- The 'REP' Theatre



Figure 1. Birmingham's Broad Street with the ICC to the far left, in the background the REP Theatre across Centenary Square.

Under the agreement Utilicom will design, build, finance and operate a district energy scheme supplying energy (electricity, hot water for heating and chilled water for air conditioning) to the various consumers for the next 25 years. The service is planned to commence on 1 October 2007.

Part of the project will involve Utilicom installing a large Combined Heat and Power (CHP) engine in the ICC boilerhouse and laying heating mains linking the various buildings to the energy centre.

The scheme will result in cost savings for those linked to it and reduce the City Centre's CO₂ emissions by 20% over the next four years.

The Broad Street scheme is the first of two large energy projects planned for the City Centre, the other contract for 'Eastside' Utilicom hopes to conclude early in 2007.

Deputy Leader of the Council, Paul Tilsley said, "This is an excellent example of how the City Council is taking a lead in tackling climate change. This scheme is really exciting, as it will help to make a difference to the environment in which we all have to live. I look forward to seeing it become a reality, and hope it is the first of many. We shall be using it as an example to encourage major developers across the region to address sustainability issues."

Simon Woodward, Utilicom's Chief Executive said, "We are delighted to be working with Birmingham City Council and its partners on this exciting flagship project. Over the next 25 years this and similar schemes will deliver increasing environmental and financial benefits to Birmingham. This will be an exemplar scheme for other local authorities throughout the UK to follow. As the UK's leading developer and provider of district energy schemes we hope to be working with many Councils and other organisations over the next few years."

ENDS

Further information from Mike Smith on 01425 475370. Email: mike.smith@utilicom.co.uk

Utilicom is the UK's leading provider of district energy schemes and is part of the IDEX Group; the largest privately owned Energy Services Company in France. The Group has over 3000 employees and an annual turnover of €400 million.

Utilicom's own head office is in Crawley, West Sussex but it has operational bases throughout the UK.

In 2001 Utilicom received the Queen's Award for Sustainable Development and in December 2006 it was the winner of the National Energy Efficiency Award (Services Category)

Utilicom Limited
Garrett House
Manor Royal
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 9UT

Tel: 01293 549944
Fax: 01293 535765
Web: www.utilicom.co.uk
Email: mail@utilicom.co.uk