

# First Utility LTE Plugfest Hailed as Great Success

*UBBA Delivers the Inaugural Utility Broadband Plugfest in St. Louis*

USA, November 2, 2021

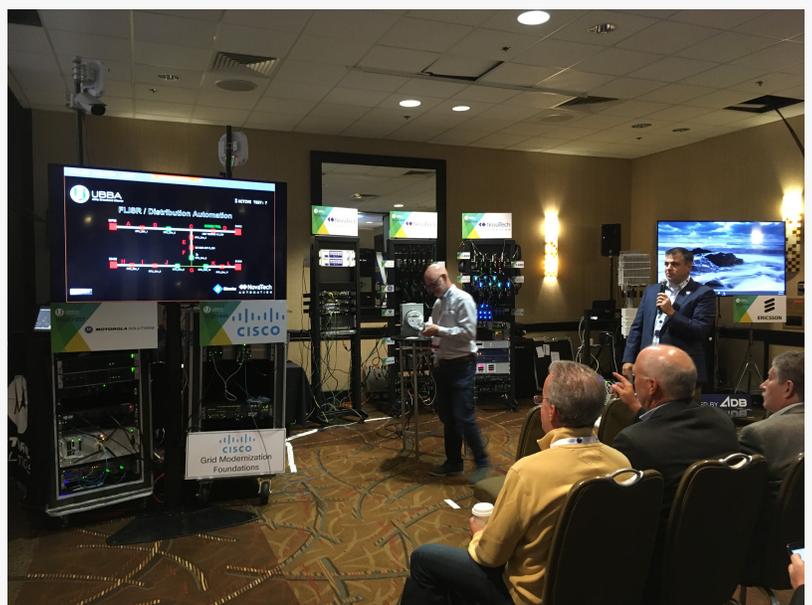
/EINPresswire.com/ -- The [Utility Broadband Alliance \(UBBA\)](#) held its inaugural Utility Broadband Plugfest to test LTE networks for utility use cases in St. Louis. UBBA delivered [a sold-out, in-person event culminating with the first Utility Broadband Plugfest](#), which showcased the innovation, collaboration, and interoperability of utility use cases and devices on public and private LTE networks. The UBBA Plugfest attracted a strong contingent of utilities with more than 275 attendees in St. Louis, while another

150 watched remotely via the Cisco WebEx platform. The Plugfest featured critical use cases such as FLISR (Fault Location, Isolation, and Service Restoration), Capacitor Bank Controllers, Smart Streetlighting, and next-gen smart meters, to name a few.

“

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*UBBA Vice Chairman John Hughes from Ameren*



UBBA Inaugural Plugfest Showcased Interoperability & Failover

Hosted by UBBA founding member Ameren Missouri, the test cases were identified by the UBBA Use Cases & Testbeds Working Group and led by the UBBA Plugfest Task Force. “Communication systems must be built to utility-grade standards to serve these critical infrastructure applications,” said Plugfest Task Force Leader, Mat Eshpeter from Burns & McDonnell. “During the UBBA Plugfest we demonstrated four infrastructure providers’ (Cisco, Ericsson, Motorola, and Nokia) interoperability with 4RF, BEC Technology, Cisco, Council Rock, GE, Hitachi-ABB, Motorola, MultiTech within and between 900 MHz Band 8 and Band 48 CBRS. We also tested for failover to the

FirstNet, AT&T, and UScellular Commercial networks.”

Some industry-first accomplishments from the Inaugural UBBA Plugfest included:

- Two 1.4 MHz carriers in 3 MHz of the spectrum between two vendors
- Showing a NB-IoT, CAT-M1 and LTE channel within a 3x3 spectrum block
- Electric AMI Meters with under the glass PLTE in the 900 MHz band

UBBA engaged all parts of its community with utilities providing field device controllers, vendors providing sensors, devices, modems, LTE core+RAN infrastructure, and integrators providing the head end testing capabilities. Companies participating & exhibiting at the inaugural UBBA Plugfest included:

- ARF
- ADB Companies
- Alpha Wireless
- Amdocs
- Anterix
- AT&T
- BEC Technology
- BLiNQ Networks
- Burns & McDonnell
- Ciena
- Cisco
- Council Rock
- CrescoNet
- Cyient
- Double Radius
- Ericsson
- GE
- Hitachi Energy
- Landis-Gyr
- Motorola Solutions



UBBA Plugfest for Utility Use Cases



UBBA Inaugural Plugfest Drew Hundreds of Utility Industry Leaders to St. Louis

- MultiTech
- NetScout
- Nokia
- NovaTech Automation
- Q-Net Security
- Second Sight Systems
- Telit
- UScellular
- WESCO-Anixter
- World Wide Technology

Inaugural Plugfest Awards were presented at the end of the event in St. Louis. There were many UBBA members stepping up, but six were honored with the awards for those individuals who most embodied the spirit of collaboration that is UBBA's Mission. The awards went to:

- Most Committed Award: Mat Eshpeter from Burns & McDonnell
- Above & Beyond Award: Tom Wilson, Jeremy Anderson, and the NovaTech Automation team
- Mission Impossible Award: Dan Madey and the Cisco team
- Laughter Therapy Award: Ron Brady from Xcel Energy
- Gracious Service Award: Gino Scribano from Motorola Solutions
- In A Clutch Award: Steve Ryan, Jim Li and the Anterix technical teams

"Each utility strategy is different and UBBA is the best resource for utilities to ask questions and collaborate about broadband solutions to meet the coverage, resilience, reliability, and cybersecurity requirements for their utility," said UBBA Vice Chairman John Hughes from Ameren. "UBBA is all about driving innovation for utility LTE networks. It is the place utilities and technology providers gather to share best practices, lessons learned, and prepare for utility requirements. The UBBA Summit & Plugfest was just one example of how UBBA works for our members, day in and day out."

WebEx recordings of the Plugfest test sessions and Summit panel presentations are [available on the UBBA.com website](#). Growing out of what we learned in St. Louis, plans are underway to prepare for additional UBBA Plugfests in 2022 and beyond. Members of the Alliance are given first access to participate and preference over non-member companies, but membership is open to utilities of all types and sizes and to the global vendor ecosystem. Contact UBBA for info about membership.

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