

News Release



**Electric Cooperatives
of Arkansas**

ERMCO acquires GridBridge Corporation to add advanced power management options

Little Rock, Ark. — July 14, 2017 — Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. recently announced that its ERMCO subsidiary had acquired GridBridge, a privately held company based in Raleigh, N.C.

ERMCO (Electric Research and Manufacturing Cooperative, Inc.) is headquartered in Dyersburg, Tennessee, and was founded in 1964. The cooperative is one of the largest producers of oil-filled distribution transformers and transformer components in the United States.

“Teaming up with GridBridge was a strategic decision prompted by increasing customer requests for advanced power management capability,” said Bill Reffert, president and CEO of ERMCO. “GridBridge’s Grid Energy Router (GER) has proven it can solve grid related problems our customers are asking for help with now. Equally attractive is that their product pipeline and power electronics expertise enables us to continue to support customers over time as they seek to manage distributed generation and storage, while also improving efficiency and reliability. This addition illustrates the ERMCO board of directors’ commitment to our growing customer base.”

According to Duane Highley, president and CEO of AECL, the GridBridge addition will provide a great solution to lead the utility industry and commercial sector’s move to more advanced electrical distribution.

“GridBridge’s innovative Energy Router Platform combined with ERMCO’s half a century manufacturing expertise will provide our customers with innovative power delivery solutions that will enable them to handle increasingly complex electrical distribution issues, including grid modernization,” Highley said. “ERMCO can now empower customers to integrate renewable generation and energy storage, significantly increase network efficiency, improve overall reliability and increase resilience.”

GridBridge operations will remain in North Carolina and operate as a subsidiary of ERMCO. In addition to ERMCO, AECL also operates Today’s Power, Inc., a leading provider of solar solutions.

The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas comprise 17 electric distribution cooperatives; Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (AECL), a Little Rock-based cooperative that provides services to the distribution cooperatives; and Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corp. (AECC), a generation and transmission cooperative. The distribution cooperatives provide electricity to approximately 500,000 homes, farms and businesses in Arkansas and surrounding states.

For additional information, contact:

Rob Roedel, Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, 501.570.2296 or rob.roedel@aecc.com

www.ecark.org

###