

agencies to develop the incremental and breakthrough technologies that are needed to strengthen and expand current electricity infrastructure as well as to create new infrastructure to support the changing power demands of a digital society. It is an initiative of the newly founded Electricity Innovation Institute (EII) of EPRI. CEIDS is currently seeking collaborative partners. For more information, please contact the EPRI Customer Assistance Center, +1800 313 3774 (option 4), e-mail askepri@epri.com.

In supporting the formal launch of CEIDS, EPRI designed a new Web site, <http://www.epri.com/CEIDS>, to establish brand identity, facilitate communication, disperse information, and drive collaboration. Send all comments, questions, and suggestions on the Web site to ythuang@epri.com.

IEEE Press Books Distributed by Wiley

IEEE Press and John Wiley & Sons Inc. implemented their copublishing agreement on 2 April. Wiley assumed responsibility for the sale and distribution of more than 180 IEEE Press titles, as well as the production of new titles under the name Wiley-IEEE Press. Staff changes also have occurred as a result of the agreement. The IEEE Press inventory has been shipped to Wiley's facility. Customers who call IEEE's customer service number are being connected to Wiley for IEEE Press book orders. Mail and fax orders are being forwarded to Wiley as well. IEEE members are receiving a promotion code entitling them to a 15% discount on Wiley-IEEE Press titles. In addition, links on the IEEE's Online Store and Catalog now direct customers to Wiley's online catalog. IEEE Press has downsized and will continue as part of Book and Information Services, headed by Ken Moore.

For more information, contact Ken Moore, k.moore@ieee.org.

California, Here We Come

Many U.S. states that have passed legislation for power industry restructuring may be headed for problems similar to the California energy crisis. Restructuring is greatly affected by market fluctuation. Everyone, including the electric

2001 CONESCAPAN

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The twentieth Central American and Panama IEEE Student Convention (CONESCAPAN XX) will be held 31 July through 3 August 2001 in San Jose, Costa Rica. For more information, contact the organizing committee, e-mail conescapan_costarica@ieee.org, Web <http://www.ieee.or.cr>.

power industry, is experiencing higher heating bills (four to five times higher), whether their homes are heated by oil or natural gas. Read "Electricity Troubles in California: Who's Next?" in the February 2001 issue of *IEEE Spectrum* for this story and others in "Spectrum News Analysis" at <http://www.spectrum.ieee.org/WEBONLY/resource/feb01/speailic.html>.

Pumping water utilizes 5% of California's power load, and 7% of total electricity usage in the state. Electricity costs compose between 20 and 80% of a water utility's total operating budget. The Association of California Water Agencies-Utility Service Agency (ACWA-USA), whose 438 public agency members are responsible for about 90% of the water delivered in California, negotiated with two companies to help members purchase solar power devices and microturbine electricity generators. Hopefully, these efforts will take pressure off the state's exhausted electricity delivery system. (Environmental News Service, 1 February 2001, <http://ens-news.com>)

Power for Your Business

IEEE Fatbrain recommends *Power of Now: How Winning Companies Sense and Respond to Change Using Real-Time Technology* by Vivek Ranadive (foreword by Eric Schmidt). This book explains how companies use real-time information to anticipate and instantly respond to the ever-changing tide of new opportunities and business strategies. The author provides a model that illustrates how corporations can develop and deliver superior goods and services for their customers quickly, thanks to real-time technology for the Internet and the enterprise.

To visit the IEEE Fatbrain site, you need an IEEE Web Account. Go to <http://www.ieee.org/ieeefatbrain>, and

see the "Business" section for more details and IEEE member discounts.

Convergent Group Launches Web Site

Convergent Group has a new Web site, <http://www.convergentgroup.com>. The site not only presents an overview of the company's solutions for building digital enterprises, but also offers a source of information about trends and activities in the utility and local government markets.

The Digital Utility section of the site (<http://www.convergentgroup.com/digital/digital-news.htm>) features the latest utility industry news along with recommended books and white papers concerning the utility industry, business transformation and the digital economy (<http://www.convergentgroup.com/digital/reading.htm>). The suggested reading section of the site includes an online purchase option that's linked directly to Amazon.com. The market research section (<http://www.convergentgroup.com/digital/market-research.htm>) features links to leading market data, and the links section provides ready access to some of the leading organizations, associations and publications in the industry.

The government gateway section of the site offers similar information for city and county government.

Visitors to the Web site are encouraged to add their own comments on books or reports they'd recommend, conferences or workshops they believe are worthwhile, and market research data they find useful.

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