



December 1, 2009

Orion Energy Systems Among Companies Recognized for Environmental, Social and Financial Success

MANITOWOC, Wis., Dec 1, 2009 (GlobeNewswire via COMTEX News Network) -- Orion Energy Systems Inc. (Nasdaq:OESX) has been named to the Investors' Circle 20, a list recognizing companies that achieve environmental, social and financial success.

Orion ranked No. 3 on the list, compiled by Investors' Circle, the United States' oldest and largest national angel investing group.

"These companies stand as shining examples of the potential of social enterprise, proving that a focus on sustainability and social impact need not compromise profitability and that socially responsible investment can result in substantial internal and external return," said Deb Parsons, Investors' Circle co-director.

Orion Energy Systems is a power technology enterprise that designs, manufactures and deploys energy management systems that significantly reduce energy costs for commercial and industrial companies, while delivering capacity to utilities throughout North America.

The IC20 was chosen among 197 companies nationwide. Ninety-five percent of the companies interviewed attributed their entire revenue to socially or environmentally beneficial products and services. These same companies did not forfeit financial success for themselves or their investors.

"We're excited to be included in the IC20 list and proud of the progress we've made since the early days when much of our financial backing came from angel investors," said Orion CEO Neal Verfueth. "They entrusted us to deliver on our promises, and with the help of our customers who share the same values of social, environmental and financial responsibility, we have."

Energy-efficiency will play a major role in improving the environment for our children and grandchildren, while, at the same time, creating the cost savings and green jobs that many believe are important to our economic recovery. We are positioned well to continue building on our success."

Orion has deployed its energy management systems in 5,082 facilities across North America, including 120 of the Fortune 500 companies. Since 2001, Orion technology has displaced more than 477 megawatts, saving customers more than \$710 million and reducing indirect carbon dioxide emissions by 6.1 million tons.

Investors' Circle is a network of more than 225 angel investors, professional venture capitalists, foundations, family offices and others who are using private capital to promote the transition to a sustainable economy. Since 1992, Investors' Circle has facilitated the flow of more than \$133 million into more than 200 companies and small funds addressing social and environmental issues. For more information, visit www.investorscircle.net.

Orion Energy Systems Inc. (Nasdaq:OESX) is a leading power technology enterprise that designs, manufactures and implements energy management systems, consisting primarily of high-performance, energy-efficient lighting platforms, intelligent wireless control systems and direct renewable solar technology for commercial and industrial customers without compromising their operations. For more information, visit www.oesx.com.

The Orion Energy Systems, Inc. logo is available at <http://www.globenewswire.com/newsroom/prs/?pkgid=4540>

This news release was distributed by GlobeNewswire, www.globenewswire.com

SOURCE: Orion Energy Systems, Inc.; Investors' Circle

CONTACT: Orion Energy Systems Inc.

Media Contact

Linda Diedrich, Director Corporate Communications

(920) 482-1988

ljd@oes1.com

(C) Copyright 2009 GlobeNewswire, Inc. All rights reserved.

News Provided by COMTEX