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Eaton Announces Major Collaboration With University Of Pittsburgh's Swanson School Of Engineering

PITTSBURGH ... Diversified industrial manufacturer Eaton Corporation announced today that it will collaborate with the University of Pittsburgh's (Pitt's) Swanson School of Engineering to help train students in the burgeoning electric power engineering field and usher in the next generation of power-delivery technology.

Supported with a \$500,000 sponsorship from Eaton, the collaboration will focus on developing courses across a broad range of electric power engineering and system topics including the growing field of smart power grids and a digitized, efficient electricity delivery system recently cited as a priority by President Barack Obama's administration. The collaboration will also cultivate new and ongoing research related to power systems, power quality, energy efficiency and alternative energy systems.

"As the nation's energy needs increase and we see an uptick in the retirement of many highly experienced power engineering professionals, it is critical that we meet rising demand for electric power engineers," said Jerry Whitaker, president, Americas Region, Eaton's Electrical Sector. "Our collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh will help address this national need and bolster the Pittsburgh region's position as a leading center of power engineering."

This new initiative builds upon previous successful collaborations between Eaton and Pitt's Swanson School. Those projects took place in Eaton's Power Quality (PQ) Lab, where Pitt students were given access to Eaton's state-of-the-art facilities for their capstone senior

design projects and worked on the development of PQ equipment, methodologies and demonstrations.

“We are pleased to have Eaton’s continuing support as we prepare our students to meet the challenges they’ll face in the dynamic field of power engineering, and to contribute collaboratively to advanced research in the areas of power and energy technologies,” said Gregory Reed, director of the Swanson School’s Power and Energy Initiative, an associate professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and a renowned electric power engineer. “Eaton’s support of our power engineering program will expose our students to a uniquely wide range of classroom, laboratory and field situations.”

An estimated 75 undergraduate and graduate students are expected to take electric power engineering courses annually as they become the next generation of power and energy engineering professionals. These classes will help the Swanson School continue to attract high-caliber students. Since 1996, the percentage of Swanson School students who graduated in the top 10 percent of their high school classes has nearly doubled from 32 percent to 58 percent.

Eaton’s electrical business is a global leader in power distribution, power quality, control and industrial automation products and services. Eaton’s global electrical product lines, including Cutler-Hammer®, Moeller®, Powerware®, Holec®, MEM®, Santak®, and MGE Office Protection Systems™ provide customer-driven PowerChain Management® solutions to serve the power system needs of the data center, industrial, institutional, government, utility, commercial, residential, and OEM markets worldwide.

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