



**CUSTOM MANUFACTURING  
& ENGINEERING, INC.**

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## **AN INTELLIGENT POWER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR TACTICAL VEHICLES RECEIVES ARMY SAFETY RELEASE**

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida — After qualifying their new Intelligent Power Management System (IPMS) through environmental and electromagnetic testing at military test centers at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, MD and Pax River, MD, CME has received an Army Safety Release for their product. This is the first advanced power distribution and management technology to be approved safe for soldier use. Originally started as a Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) project in 1998, CME has proven the feasibility of using an advanced intelligent power distribution load center for tactical shelters and vehicles. Since the late 1990's CME has been awarded several follow-on contracts to complete development, integration, and test of the technology into a fully militarized system. In 2002-2004, the company was awarded a contract to integrate IPMS into several variants of military vehicles and shelters. Although the system can be configured in many ways, the same power control and monitoring modules are used as the basic building blocks which provide a commonality in the architecture.

Besides the fact that delivering reliable electrical power on the battlefield is chaotic and difficult in a dynamic environment, the US military has long time known that they need to increase power efficiency of their systems which in turn will help reduce the logistical footprint in terms of transportability, fuel, and maintenance requirements. Traditional tactical power distribution networks operate at approximately 30 to 40 percent of maximum capacity. Intelligent load management significantly increases the amount of loads that can be placed on a power distribution network without increasing the power source. The Army does not have electricians in most of the units, so there was a need to provide a more intuitive interface, warning messages, and alerts to soldiers so they could take corrective action. IPMS allows enhances operator safety and provides a simple interface. Knowing the state of the power network at any given moment and getting every possible kilowatt out of the network is becoming more and more important to commanders.

CME recognized that there was an emerging need and growing demand for better power management and distribution products for application in the military. The IPMS product represents a paradigm shift in the military. More and more acquisition program managers are beginning to seek out new power solutions, but they worry about the risk of adopting new or unproven technologies. Now that CME has fully qualified the IPMS, we can provide a mature, technology capability that enhances military operational capability. CME's Power strategy is to become the supplier of choice for integrated power supplies and smart power distribution, control, and networking products. The company operates an ISO9001:2000 registered development and manufacturing center in St. Petersburg, FL. CME develops its own Power and Sensor products, while also serving as a supplier to other businesses for outsourced development and manufacturing opportunities.

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*CME was started in 1997 as an independent spinout of a large defense prime contractor by Dr. Nancy Crews. CME now employs over 120 people and is principally engaged in the research, design, development, and manufacture of Power and Sensor products.*