



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **IBEC Announces \$19.2M in RUS Loans to Provide Broadband-Over-Powerline Internet Services to Rural America; Up to 104,000 Customers to be Served**

**HUNTSVILLE, AL: August 18, 2005** - International Broadband Electric Communications, Inc. (IBEC), the leading provider of broadband-over-powerline (BPL) solutions for rural America, today announced the approval of \$19.2M in loan funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utility Service (RUS). The funds will be used to deploy IBEC's leading-edge BPL solution and provide broadband Internet services to members of Electric Cooperatives in Alabama, Indiana, and Virginia. The loans are part of an RUS program to make broadband Internet services available to the underserved residents of rural America, in keeping with President Bush's bold program to make broadband Internet available to all Americans by 2007. IBEC expects to begin deployment of its BPL solution utilizing these loans in all three states later this year.

"IBEC's focus since its inception has been to provide BPL services to the underserved residents of rural America - those citizens who are often neglected but who have the same need for broadband services as those living in urban and suburban America," said Scott E. Lee, CEO of IBEC. "These loans will allow IBEC to begin building the broadband networks necessary to serve rural America and close the Digital Divide," Lee added. In partnership with Cullman Electric Cooperative in Cullman, AL; South Central Indiana Rural Electric Membership Cooperative in Martinsville, IN; and Central Virginia Electric Cooperative in Lovingston, VA; IBEC will provide high-speed, always-on Internet services similar to DSL and cable modem services, to as many as 104,000 customers served by these Electric Cooperatives, at monthly prices starting as low as \$29.95. Unlike DSL and cable, BPL delivers broadband signals directly to every power outlet in a home or business served, making the Internet much easier to use and enjoy.

"It would be remiss of us not to make use of the some 4,000 miles of electric lines that our members have already paid for to bring this service to our members," said Howard Scarboro, CEO of Central Virginia Electric Cooperative.

"We are very excited about our partnership with IBEC and the opportunity to provide broadband service to our members," remarked Kevin Sump, CEO of South Central Indiana Rural Electric Membership Cooperative. "Less than 10% of our membership currently has access to broadband service, and the prospect of them getting broadband service any time soon if we don't provide it is not very good. Just as we did almost 70 years ago when we brought electricity to the rural areas, our partnership with IBEC will allow us to help bridge the Digital Divide for our members."

Grady Smith, CEO of Cullman Electric Cooperative stated, "We are very excited about the opportunity this relationship creates for the Electric Cooperatives to once again be a partner in extending a service to rural America that might not otherwise be available. The potential of extending BPL in rural America today is very similar to the extension of electric service some 70 years ago."

In addition to providing broadband Internet services, IBEC's network will be useful to electric utilities by providing a secure, high-speed communication network that the utilities can use to monitor, manage, and maintain their networks, improving customer service and reducing the day-to-day operating costs of providing reliable energy to their customers.

### **About IBEC**

IBEC, Inc. is a full-service provider of broadband-over-powerline Internet access solutions and services, powerline-based security systems, and electric utility management and control solutions. IBEC's solutions are designed to provide superior broadband services to all utility customers, both urban and rural, by providing the most cost-effective, reliable, and easy-to-deploy BPL solution available. Via its innovative approach and solutions, IBEC is committed to *EmPOWERing the World's Broadband*®. For more information, contact IBEC at 2707 Artie Street SW, Building 300 - Suite 10, Huntsville, AL 35805, 256-492-1000, or via email at [info@ibec.net](mailto:info@ibec.net). On the Internet, visit IBEC at [www.ibec.net](http://www.ibec.net).