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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Neptune's FieldNet® System by DB Microware® to be Implemented by Tampa Electric Company**

**PLANO, TEXAS**, [Jan 18, 2005] – Neptune Technology Group Inc., and its wholly owned subsidiary DB Microware, announced today it has reached an agreement with Tampa Electric Company ([www.tampaelectric.com](http://www.tampaelectric.com)) to implement the FieldNet utility field service automation suite.

Tampa Electric is an investor-owned electric utility serving more than 600,000 customers in the Tampa, Florida area. By choosing FieldNet, Tampa Electric will utilize a multi-functional handheld and AMR- capable solution that will provide traditional meter reading, AMR (handheld and mobile), meter-related field service, and automated route control capabilities. With FieldNet, Tampa Electric will have greater control and the flexibility to address the requirement for increased efficiency in its meter-related field service processes. FieldNet provides a fully customized solution to meet customers' exact needs. Tampa Electric's implementation of FieldNet software will include meter reading, off-cycle service order management, and route control. Tampa Electric will implement DAP Technologies' handheld and tablet hardware with full AMR capabilities.

Tampa Electric joins the growing ranks of major investor-owned utilities that use Neptune's FieldNet System by DB Microware to manage its meter reading, service order, and route control processes. With FieldNet, a utility can obtain a best-of-breed solution to all its meter-related field service needs. Neptune's FieldNet by DB Microware software manages meter reading for over 8,000,000 meters monthly and route control for more than 50 million connected customers. In addition, Neptune's DB Microware group has provided software to 32 of the largest 100 utilities in the United States.

Charles (Chuck) C. DiLaura, President of Neptune Technology Group Inc., states, "We are very excited about Tampa Electric selecting FieldNet for their meter-related field service needs. By implementing the complete FieldNet by DB Microware software solution, we are confident that Tampa Electric will gain the tremendous operational efficiencies and control that FieldNet can provide. The added flexibility inherent in FieldNet should also help them be more adaptive to rapidly changing utility processes".

#### **About the Companies**

Tampa Electric Company is the principal subsidiary of TECO Energy, Inc. (NYSE: TE), an integrated energy-related holding company with core businesses in the utility sector, complemented by a family of unregulated businesses. Tampa Electric Company is a regulated utility with both electric and gas divisions (Tampa Electric and Peoples Gas System). Other subsidiaries are engaged in waterborne transportation, coal and synthetic fuel production and independent power.

FieldNet by DB Microware is an integrated route control, meter reading and automated service order package which utilizes the latest software and hardware technologies available. With the addition of Neptune's AMR capabilities, FieldNet also provides complete AMR capability. DB Microware has built all of its software using the latest technology and an architecture that provides customization to meet the unique needs of each client. DB Microware is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Neptune Technology Group Inc.

Neptune Technology Group Inc., a pioneer in the development of Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) technology nearly 40 years ago, is a leading provider of data collection systems, reading more than 38 million meters per month. Since 1892 Neptune has continually focused on the evolving needs of utilities — revenue optimization, operational efficiencies, and improved customer service. Neptune continues to broaden its focus beyond automatic meter reading and metering to include service orders and meter asset management and to extend this capability to electric and gas utilities as it further integrates with DB Microware and its alliance partners. Neptune provides utility automation software touching over 50 million connected customers throughout North America.