



Powell Industries Announces Addition to Senior Management Team

HOUSTON, Aug 17, 2004 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX/ -- Powell Industries, Inc. (Nasdaq: POWL), a leading manufacturer of equipment and systems for the management and control of electrical energy and other critical processes, today announced that it has named Mark W. Reid, age 44, to the new position of Executive Vice President. Mr. Reid's primary responsibilities will include strategic planning and corporate development, and he will report directly to Tom Powell, the company's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.

Mr. Reid is a professional engineer with over 21 years of experience in the electrical products industry, spending the last eight years in various management positions at ABB, including General Manager, Group Vice President and Regional Manager. While at ABB, he had assignments in the U.S. and in Zurich, Switzerland. Mr. Reid holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Colorado.

"I am extremely pleased to welcome Mark to Powell Industries. As we plan for the future with customers becoming increasingly globally focused, we face new challenges. Mark brings international expertise and over 20 years of experience in our industry. We believe he will add strength and leadership to our management team and our strategic direction going forward," stated Tom Powell.

Powell Industries, Inc., headquartered in Houston, TX, designs, manufactures and services equipment and systems for the management and control of electrical energy and other critical processes. Powell provides products and services to the transportation, environmental, industrial and utility industries. For more information, please visit <http://www.powellind.com>.

Any forward-looking statements in the preceding paragraphs of this release are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Investors are cautioned that such forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainty in that actual results may differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. In the course of operations, we are subject to certain risk factors, including but not limited to competition and competitive pressures, sensitivity to general economic and industrial conditions, international political and economic risks, availability and price of raw materials and execution of business strategy. For further information, please refer to the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, copies of which are available from the Company without charge.

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