

## **NorthWestern Energy selects CrewManager work planning and scheduling software**

SANTA MONICA, California, January 19, 2010.

NorthWestern Energy (NWE) has selected the CrewManager work planning and scheduling software for its Construction and Operations Divisions.

CrewManager will be used for all distribution expense and capital work, electric and gas transmission, and any other work performed by retail operations resources. The purpose of the software system is to ensure the efficient completion of work plans and work scheduling while optimizing and leveling internal and external resource capacities.

"After an evaluation of work planning and scheduling systems in the utility market, NWE awarded the contract to Unique Business Systems for its CrewManager software in December 2009. CrewManager aligned nicely with our initial requirements and specifications and we are anxious to get to implementation so that we can begin to schedule our resources from a consistent and transparent platform", says Mike Schmit, NorthWestern's General Manager of Construction.

Donnell Kuchtyn, IT Project Manager, says, "With its clean .NET interface, and its demonstrated scheduling and integration capabilities, CrewManager was the appropriate choice for a \$1.2 Billion revenue utility like NorthWestern Energy with multiple cities and operating areas." She adds: "When you see a conference room full of Operations, Construction, and IT personnel, who are well versed in enterprise software, light up at the sight and workings of a visual, drag and drop work planning and scheduling system, you know you have found the right tool for your operating areas."

NorthWestern Energy and Unique Business Systems began the implementation of CrewManager in December 2009, with a March 2010 targeted go-live date for Montana operations. Integration between NorthWestern Energy's enterprise system and CrewManager will also be completed within this time period, using the CrewManager Integration Module.

"We are pleased at the culmination of our search", concludes Jeanne Vold, Lead Director IT. "Our General Managers and Division Managers are also looking forward to analyzing data and metrics with CrewManager's reporting and graphical display modules".

*NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy is an investor-owned utility and one of the largest providers of electricity and natural gas in the northwest quadrant of the United States, serving approximately 656,000 customers: 392,600 electric and 263,700 natural gas, in Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska. The electric system serves 297 communities covering two-thirds of Montana, eastern South Dakota, and Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming. NWE's natural gas system serves 169 communities in Montana, South Dakota and central Nebraska. <http://www.northwesternenergy.com/>*

*Unique Business Systems, founded in 1982 in Santa Monica, California, is a leading developer of software for tracking assets and for planning work and scheduling crews. The major industries UBS services include Utilities, Audio Visual Staging & Rentals, and Heavy Construction Equipment Dealers. [www.unibiz.com](http://www.unibiz.com)*

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

ANDY RATAN  
Business Manager, Utilities  
Unique Business Systems  
Phone: 310-396-3929 x 193  
Email: [aratan@unibiz.com](mailto:aratan@unibiz.com)

THOMAS R. GLANZER  
Corporate Communications/Demand Side Management  
NorthWestern Energy  
PO Box 1318 / 600 Market Street West  
Huron, SD 57350  
Media Calls - 877-410-0154  
[tom.glanzer@northwestern.com](mailto:tom.glanzer@northwestern.com)