



## *News Release*

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### **Avista Labs Changes Name to ReliOn as Part of Company Relaunch** *Company displays products at CTIA Wireless*

**Spokane, Wash.:** Avista Labs, the leading provider of high reliability fuel cell solutions for backup power applications, has changed its company name to ReliOn effective today. The date coincides with the start of the company's participation in the CTIA Wireless tradeshow, the largest wireless telecommunications event in the United States, held in Atlanta, Georgia.

The name change was completed as part of an overall relaunch of the company. The process began in July 2003 with a change in Avista Labs' financial status. Prior to that time, Avista Labs was a wholly-owned subsidiary of Avista Corp, an energy company involved in the production, transmission and distribution of energy as well as other energy-related businesses. In August, 2003, Avista Labs completed its "A" round of capital funding, which resulted in an overall reduction of Avista Corp's percentage of ownership. The company has progressed from primarily a research & development lab to a commercial entity focused on sales and growth. That progress included the recent appointment of a new CEO, John D. Werderman.

Mr. Werderman stated, "The evolution of the company now provides an opportunity for rebranding. The name change to ReliOn better reflects the company's status as an independent privately-held corporation doing commercial business."

Gary Flood, vice-president of marketing and business development explained, "The selection of ReliOn as our new company name reflects our focus and commitment to providing reliable back up power solutions to our customers. As we move forward with our business plan, the name ReliOn positions us solidly as a company providing dependable power solutions to the telecommunications, government, and utility industries for their critical back-up power applications."

ReliOn is displaying its fuel cell power solutions at CTIA Wireless, booth 4775, from March 22-24, 2004.

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**About ReliOn:**

ReliOn is a leader in the development and marketing of modular Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) fuel cell products. The company markets a variety of commercially available fuel cells using its patented Modular Cartridge Technology®. ReliOn products are available domestically and internationally for commercial and industrial backup applications in the 500-watt to 5-kilowatt range. ReliOn fuel cells are certified to multiple safety and performance standards. [www.relion-inc.com](http://www.relion-inc.com).

This press release contains "forward-looking statements." These forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors, which may cause ReliOn's actual results, performance, or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements express or implied by such forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements made in this press release are based on assumptions and judgments of management regarding future events and results. These assumptions and judgments may prove to be inaccurate as a result of a number of factors, many of which are beyond ReliOn's control, and its actual results may differ materially from the results contemplated in these forward-looking statements.