



## *News Release*

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### **Avista Labs Fuel Cell Powers Critical Radio Site During Hurricane Isabel** *Maryland State communications site stays up*

**Spokane, Wash. and Washington, D.C.:** – Avista Labs, the leading provider of reliability-based fuel cell solutions for backup power applications, and havePOWER, LLC, a leading power solution integrator for State emergency communications, announced successful backup power performance during the most extreme conditions of Hurricane Isabel. havePOWER's integrated power solution, featuring Avista Labs' Independence 1000™ modular fuel cell system, was installed at a Maryland government microwave radio tower site in Elk Neck State Park in May 2003. The Elk Neck site, along with much of eastern Maryland, was impacted severely by Hurricane Isabel on September 18-19, causing it to lose grid power. In the midst of Isabel's fury, it became necessary to remove the backup generator at the site from service. The failure of the grid and the combustion generator was detected by havePOWER's integrated power solution, which instantly activated the Avista Labs Independence 1000™. The fuel cell system enabled critical Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Systems Services (MIEMSS), State Police, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and other critical communications during the hurricane and its aftermath until grid power was restored.

State of Maryland Director of Communications, Tom Miller stated, "The fuel cell system carried the day. This is exactly why we began implementing a backup power program featuring the modular havePOWER/Avista Labs package. We need highly reliable communications, especially during emergencies. I am very pleased with this result."

The Elk Neck site is the first field site installed under a distribution agreement between Avista Labs and havePOWER. havePOWER is working with MIEMSS to install an identical solution in other critical, emergency communications sites across Maryland. Avista Labs has granted havePOWER exclusive marketing rights for specific government communications requirements in 18 states through 2006.

Avista Labs CEO, Mike Davis commented, "Outages occur with more regularity than we'd like. The events of Hurricane Isabel provided the ultimate test of the reliability of our fuel cell products in critical telecommunications applications. We see growing demand for our products in critical back-up applications. We are very proud of the performance of our fuel cell products and the excellent work of havePOWER."

George Milne, chief operating officer at havePOWER stated, “We are not surprised by the job the fuel cell system did at Elk Neck. It did exactly what it was designed to do.”

**About havePOWER:**

havePOWER is an industry leading distributor, installer, integrator and servicer of fuel cell products designed for the telecommunications industry. In addition to distributing and servicing Avista Labs fuel cell products to a number of State communication sites, the company provides a wide range of integration engineering services including design and installation of hydrogen infrastructure systems. More information is available at [www.havepower.com](http://www.havepower.com).

**About Avista Labs:**

Avista Labs 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®. Avista Labs products are available domestically and internationally for commercial and industrial backup applications in the 50-Watt to 6-kilowatt range. Avista Labs fuel cells are certified to US and international safety and performance standards. [www.avistalabs.com](http://www.avistalabs.com).

This press release contains "forward-looking statements." These forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors, which may cause Avista Labs' 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 Avista Labs' control, and its actual results may differ materially from the results contemplated in these forward-looking statements.