



For Immediate Release:

Contact: Tamsin Jeff-Johnston
Tel: 01865 383068, email: tamsin.jeff-johnston@unipart.com

Chris Mostyn, National Grid Media Relations
Tel: 020 7004 3149 email: chris.mostyn@nationalgrid.com

Unipart Wins Contract with National Grid in the U.S.

Oxford-based Unipart Group has won a major contract with National Grid to train and coach thousands of employees in the United States in continuous improvement.

Unipart began its work with National Grid in the UK where Unipart is helping the company to implement a programme called *Performance Excellence*, a way to engage people at every level of the organisation in making improvements using 'lean' tools and techniques. The aim is to ensure that National Grid's customers, communities and other stakeholders continue to receive a safe, reliable and secure supply of their energy.

Unipart is now working across National Grid's operations in the U.S. providing practical training and coaching at all levels. It extends from front line operational teams, who are aiming to respond to customer needs as quickly and effectively as possible, to support areas of the business such as procurement, finance and HR.

Steve Holiday, Chief Executive of National Grid said

"We're pleased to expand our work with Unipart to include our U.S. operations, as we continue to deliver on our commitment to provide our customers excellent value, by engaging our people to deliver operational excellence while stimulating innovation into everything we do."

According to Unipart Chairman and Group Chief Executive John Neill, National Grid chose Unipart because of Unipart's extensive experience and deep knowledge of implementing continuous improvement programmes.

Unipart Chairman and Group Chief Executive John Neill said

"Those goals mirror the goals of *The Unipart Way*, which we have developed over the past 20 years, and which has already been implemented successfully in a wide range of industry sectors. We're very pleased to extend our footprint to play a part in National Grid's successful implementation in the U.S., and to work with such a significant organisation in a sector that is critically important to all our futures."

- ends -

Editors' Notes:

About Unipart Group

Unipart Group employs around 10,000 personnel worldwide and has an annual turnover of more than £1billion. It is a leading UK manufacturer, full service logistics provider and consultant in operational excellence.

Operating across a range of market sectors, including automotive, leisure, manufacturing, mobile telecoms, rail, retail and technology, Unipart offers a breadth of services from third party logistics to expert consultancy.

All Unipart sites operate according to the Group's proprietary version of Lean known as The Unipart Way. This is a philosophy of working underpinned by tools and techniques that inspires efficiency, flexibility and outstanding customer service in any process. The company, which is based in Oxford in the UK, has a growing number of international sites supporting a wide range of blue chip clients. For more information visit: www.unipart.com.

About National Grid

National Grid (LSE: NG; NYSE:NGG) is an electricity and gas company that connects consumers to energy sources through its networks. The company is at the heart of one of the greatest challenges facing our society - to create new, sustainable energy solutions for the future and developing an energy system that underpins economic prosperity in the 21st century. National Grid holds a vital position at the centre of the energy system and 'joins everything up'.

In Britain, National Grid runs the gas and electricity systems that our society is built on, delivering gas and electricity across the country. In the North Eastern US, it connects more than seven million gas and electric customers to vital energy sources, essential for our modern lifestyles.

National Grid in the UK:

National Grid owns the high-voltage electricity transmission network in England and Wales, operating it across Great Britain. It owns and operates the high pressure gas transmission system in Britain. Its gas distribution business delivers gas to 11 million homes and businesses. National Grid also own a number of related businesses including LNG importation, land remediation and metering. It manages the National Gas Emergency Service free phone line on behalf of the industry - 0800 111 999 (all calls are recorded and may be monitored).