

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Direct Energy Chooses ExoLink for Multi-Year Integration Contract

Direct Energy, a North American unit of Centrica, chooses ExoLink to provide critical integration hub services for the Texas Retail Electric Market.

Lewisville, TX (April 5, 2002) - ExoLink Corporation, the premier provider of business integration hub services to the deregulating, regulated, and evolving energy industry, announced that it has signed a multi-year agreement with Direct Energy Marketing Limited (Direct Energy), one of the leading energy providers in North America. Under the agreement, ExoLink will provide its information exchange hub to conduct business electronically with utility companies across the state of Texas.

"We see the benefits of ExoLink's solution on many fronts," said Bernie Gillies, Direct Energy's Chief Information Officer. "Its integration services allow us to rapidly enter and operate reliably in the most demanding deregulated energy markets. We expect fewer errors and exceptions, thus lower operating costs, by using ExoLink's solution versus a traditional electronic data interchange (EDI) platform," he observed.

"We are very pleased with Direct Energy's selection of ExoLink as its strategic retail integration hub partner. ExoLink's ability to meet the needs of Direct Energy underscores our value proposition and capability to service the complex challenges of energy deregulation," said John R. Harris, ExoLink's President, and Chief Executive Officer.

# **About Centrica and Direct Energy**

Since its formation in 1997, Centrica (http://www.centrica.com) has developed into a leading provider of energy and other essential services. In the UK, Centrica offers energy supply and related products under the British Gas brand, roadside and financial services from the AA, telecom products and services through One.Tel and British Gas, and financial services from Goldfish.

In North America, Centrica, through its affiliates, currently supplies gas to 1.3 million customers across North American under the Direct Energy and Energy America brands, making it the largest unregulated energy supplier. In addition, 600,000 customers have already signed up with Direct Energy in anticipation of the opening of the Ontario electricity market scheduled in May 2002. All told, the company has 3.5 million value relationships with customers throughout North America.

#### About ExoLink

ExoLink Corporation (http://www.exolink.com) is the premier U.S. provider of integration hub services for the regulated, competitive, and evolving energy industry. ExoLink automates critical activities associated with electric and natural gas retail energy sales for clients in both regulated and deregulated environments. In particular, ExoLink provides a service that allows utilities and energy marketing companies to automate transactions in and out of multiple energy markets with greater ease and with fewer exceptions, while monitoring, validating, and directing the complex data associated with retail energy transactions. ExoLink also provides critical integration services to energy companies that are focused on growth through mergers and acquisitions. ExoLink currently operates in both electric and natural gas retail markets throughout the U.S. and supports all existing file formats and data exchange methods. ExoLink Corporation is a privately held company headquartered in Lewisville, Texas.

#### **COMPANY CONTACT**

# For Direct Energy

25 Sheppard Ave. West, Suite 1400 Toronto, ON M2N 6S6 http://www.directenergy.com/

# For ExoLink Corporation

Kay Fuhrman Vice President, Sales ExoLink, Inc. Phone: 972.538.6844 Kay.Fuhrman@exolink.com