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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CHARLES INDUSTRIES MAKES BIG STRIDES IN LEADING SMALL CELL ENCLOSURE MARKET

ROLLING MEADOWS, IL (March 17, 2014) – Charles Industries, Ltd., a leading provider of outside plant innovations for telecommunications, wireless, broadband cable and utility providers, has announced aggressive plans to solidify its spot in 2014 as the leading manufacturer of compact enclosures for small cell applications. With field trials underway of four newly designed models within its Charles Universal Broadband Enclosure (CUBE) product line, and investments and expansions at its U.S. based manufacturing facilities, Charles has positioned itself to offer the most diverse and robust line of small cell equipment enclosure solutions in this rapidly growing and strategically important market.

Small cells are low-powered radio access nodes that have an approximate range of 30 feet to 1.25 miles. They are deployed at stadiums, concert arenas, office buildings, neighborhoods, campuses, malls, airports and congested city areas to provide bandwidth for smart phones and other 3G, 4G and LTE mobile devices. Small cell enclosures are needed to environmentally house and protect the routers, fiber backhaul equipment, powering equipment and battery backup solutions at these sites. A recent study by research firm ABI Research forecasts that overall small cell shipments will reach 5.7 million units in 2014 compared to 3.8 million units in 2013.

Charles has continued the expansion of its CUBE product line with the introduction of several new solutions geared towards supporting small cell deployments. Charles' CUBE platform is recognized by carriers as having a highly diverse portfolio of compact enclosures. New model additions to the portfolio, four of which are currently being field trialed by major North American service providers and targeted for release in the second half of 2014, offer flexibility to support power only; power and battery; or power, battery and small cell/high power radios in a single enclosure. This modular approach to design allows carriers to utilize a tailored solution depending upon the application needs, a critical factor when dealing with the deployment challenges brought on by a myriad of municipal restrictions.

“Operators are inundated with a laundry list of challenges when placing small cell solutions in the cityscape, including: size, shape, footprint, number of attachments, and weight,” said Dominic Imbrogno, Director of Active Enclosures for Charles Industries. “We are excited about the opportunity to help operators solve these deployment challenges with our comprehensive line of compact small cell enclosures. Our diverse manufacturing capabilities uniquely position Charles to quickly address new challenges as they arise.”

Charles manufactures its CUBE product line in its Midwest manufacturing centers located in Illinois. Recent investments in new equipment, state-of-the-art powder coating facilities, and process improvements have greatly improved Charles’ capacity and ability to meet operator’s tight deployment schedules. In-house control of every aspect of the line’s design, manufacturing and quality gives Charles a competitive advantage when it comes to meeting specific customer requests and requirements. “No other manufacturer takes a more active approach to meeting its customers’ unique deployment challenges with time-sensitivity and individual responsiveness,” stated Imbrogno.

More information about specific CUBE models designed for small cell applications may be found at http://www.charlesindustries.com/main/te_CUBE.htm or by calling 847-806-6300.

About Charles Industries, Ltd.

2014 marks Charles Industries’ 46th year as a privately held, diversified manufacturing and technology company serving telecommunications, wireless, broadband cable, utility, marine and industrial markets. Founded in 1968, the company is ISO 9001:2008 and TL 9000 registered and headquartered in Rolling Meadows, Illinois with four additional U.S.-based manufacturing centers. For further information, please visit www.charlesindustries.com or call (847) 806-6300.

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