

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contacts for Reporters:

Mike Masciola

NCEDC

970-593-2290

mmasciola@ncedc.com

Julie Zinn Patti

Spirae, Inc.

(970) 484-8259

jzinnpatti@spirae.com**International company Spirae expands in Fort Collins**

Fort Collins, Colorado (January 6, 2011) – The Northern Colorado Economic Development Corporation (NCEDC) and Spirae, Inc. are pleased to announce Spirae’s headquarter expansion in Fort Collins, Colorado. Increased sales and international interest in the company over the past 18 months have led the smart grid technology company to expand not only their office space but also to create a Center for Smart Grid Advancement in north Fort Collins.

“Northern Colorado is an ideal location for Spirae and the Center for Smart Grid Advancement,” stated Sunil Cherian, Chief Executive Officer, Spirae. “We enjoy a unique synergistic and collaborative environment here in Fort Collins, which contributes to Spirae’s ability to develop and deliver smart grid solutions, as well as educate smart grid stakeholders and workforce. The City of Fort Collins, State Office of Economic Development and International Trade and NCEDC have all been important resources for us.”

Spirae is expanding from their current location at 255 Linden Street and will move into nearly 5,300 square feet at 320 East Vine Street, in the Rocky Mountain Innosphere building in north Fort Collins in February. The company will be investing over one million dollars in equipment, systems development, furniture and fixtures over the next two years. Spirae is growing at a steady pace and expects to have approximately 100 employees within the next three years. Average salary for the employees is \$80,000, which is 100 percent above the Larimer county average of \$40,000.

“Spirae’s excellence in distributed and renewable energy integration and their Center for Smart Grid Advancement will establish Northern Colorado as an international hub for smart grid,” said Mike Masciola, COO & Senior Vice President of NCEDC “Their expansion is another significant step in bolstering Northern Colorado’s thriving clean energy industry.”

“Part of the City’s economic strategy is to work with established companies such as Spirae to further the research, development and marketing of products that can be used here and in other locations.” stated Mike Freeman, Chief Financial Officer, City of Fort Collins “Local innovation through companies like Spirae and through CSU, bring other companies, researchers and investment/funding to the area that enriches the whole community.”

The Center for Smart Grid Advancement (CSGA), led by Spirae, will provide the infrastructure and education necessary to address the numerous technical, regulatory, economic and operational issues that must be addressed to realize the full potential of smart grids. The Center, explained Julie Zinn Patti, Spirae Director of Operations, supports Spirae's ongoing effort to educate and inform industry stakeholders about the challenges and opportunities facing the transformation of the electric power system.

The Center leverages the InteGrid Test and Development Lab, one of the largest physical simulation labs in North America; and the Smart Grid Network Operating Center (NOC), a new facility at Spirae to provide hands-on training and power system operations experience to participants. A range of professional training courses will be developed by Colorado State University, Spirae, external subject matter experts, and industry sponsors. The first Smart Grid course through this initiative will be offered in Summer 2011.

The NCEDC began working on Spirae's expansion project in March of 2010. The NCEDC assisted Spirae to secure a \$150,000 matching grant from the State Office of Economic Development and International Trade's Strategic Fund. NCEDC also performed real estate searches, provided enterprise zone tax credit information, workforce training grant information and completed an Economic Impact Analysis report.

About Spirae:

Spirae, founded in 2002, is based in Fort Collins, Colorado and employs a team of world-class professionals with more than 500 years of combined experience with wide area controls and distributed energy integration. Spirae provides control and analysis solutions to the utility industry for managing large quantities of distributed energy resources on the power system. Distributed energy resources can take many forms, including wind generation, solar photovoltaic, electric vehicles, controllable loads, and smaller conventional generation located at consumer sites. Spirae's BlueFin™ control and simulation solutions are designed to facilitate maximum contribution and participation from these resources while maintaining reliable and efficient operation of the power system. Spirae also co-owns and operates the InteGrid Test and Development Lab in collaboration with Colorado State University for the purposes of advanced grid simulation and research. For more information about Spirae, please visit spirae.com and integrilab.com.

About NCEDC:

The NCEDC is a non-profit organization and the primary resource in Larimer County to assist with business attraction and business retention and expansion of primary employers. Through the generous support of NCEDC's investors and strategic partners, since January of 2010 the NCEDC staff has assisted in the creation of 619 primary jobs with an average salary of \$65,250 which is 63 percent above the Larimer County average salary of \$40,000. This provides an annual payroll of over \$45 million earned by local residents. Visit www.ncedc.com for more information.

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