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MPrest picks Bennett to run energy-focused US arm

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MPrest, developer and provider of distributed asset orchestration and optimization software for energy, defense, and commercial markets, announced yesterday its board of directors appointed Andrew Bennett as CEO of the firm's US-based commercial arm focusing primarily on application in energy markets. Bennett is a highly accomplished executive in the energy and software market and was most recently responsible for running global sales of AI applications at IBM, focused on enterprise asset management, IoT, and supply-chain management.

Before that, Bennett served as senior VP of energy for Schneider Electric North America, where he joined following its acquisition of Telvent where he had managed its utility business, MPrest said.

As new DERs come online, and the grid struggles to effectively manage energy deployment, utilities and industry channel partners alike are expected to adopt scalable software to support massive behind-the-meter integration, the firm said. As MPrest's presence in North American energy markets continues to grow, Bennett's experience in talent acquisition, global sales and marketing positioning, and operations make him the ideal individual for the role.

"The energy revolution is taking place now, with companies and countries focused on decentralization, decarbonization, and digitization of their energy systems," said Bennett in prepared remarks. "At the heart of that transformation is the management of the distributed energy resources, and MPrest is the clear leader in the market, with a proven track record of delivering end-to-end processes built to aid in the visualization and integration of front-of-the-meter and behind-the-meter assets.

"I simply could not be more excited to join this amazing team and take part in the next phase of the company."

MPrest built its DER management system from the ground up, creating a solution that is less rigid in architecture and that lets companies and users scale, not replace, their existing distribution management systems (DMSs) and advanced DMSs (ADMSs). The MPrest DERMS uniquely acts as a system-of-systems, integrating not only with SCADA software and DMS and ADMS systems, but also with third-party DERs, virtual power plant (VPP) operators, and microgrid management systems, the firm said.

This suite of applications revolutionizes the way energy companies, T&D utilities and energy retailers manage their energy systems, it added.

"Since our founding in 2003, MPrest has been on an amazing journey from Iron Dome to the internet of energy, with over 25 million assets managed and orchestrated by our software," said MPrest CEO and co-founder Natan Barak in prepared remarks. "MPrest has developed the next-generation 'mDERMS' software platform to manage and optimize energy efficiency with artificial intelligence (AI) and IoT.

"We are thrilled to expand our world-class leadership team with the recruitment of Andy Bennett, as part of our strategy to accelerate our growth in North American markets and strengthen our position as a global leader.