SMITH’s Research & Gradings Announces
2010 All-Star Deal of the Year

MEAG Power Bond Deal
Uses $2.7 Billion Taxable and Tax-Exempt Debt to
Fund Expansion of Technologically Innovative Nuclear Plant

CONNECTICUT — November 24, 2010 — SMITH’s Research & Gradings today announced the 2010 All-Star Deal of the Year was awarded to The Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia (MEAG Power) for the Vogtle Nuclear Units 3 and 4 Project. Voting was conducted by institutional investors.


SMITH’s 2010 Deal of the Year will be presented to James Fuller, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of MEAG Power at SMITH’s All-Star Awards Luncheon on December 8, 2010 at Bayards in New York, New York.

The Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia (MEAG Power) is a public generation and transmission organization providing power to 49 Georgia communities with annual electric sales of $772 million and 10.6 million megawatt-hours of delivered energy in 2008.

“Georgia MEAG deserves recognition for making America’s Infrastructure stronger by financing the construction of the nation’s first nuclear power plant facility in 30 years. What’s more, Georgia MEAG’s thoughtful use of the Build America Bonds and the Federal government’s guarantee helps the entire nation move closer to energy independence,” according to Terence M. Smith, CEO of SMITH’s Research & Gradings.

2010 Municipal All-Star Team

Now in its 18th year, SMITH’s All-Star award program recognizes the work done by municipal professionals throughout the year. Those eligible for the award can work at Wall Street firms, buyside institutions, rating agencies, financial guaranty insurance companies, and commercial banks.
“The All-Star Team was founded in 1992 to provide recognition for high quality analysis conducted for the benefit of investors,” said Mr. Smith. “SMITH’s 2010 All-Star Team reflects the founding principles of the program with a wide range of analysts elected from a broad base of market sectors.”

**Broad-Based Electorate**

During the 2010 voting, *SMITH's Municipal All-Star Team* generated over 3,200 votes from institutional investors. The size of the institutions ranged from some of the largest, with $100’s of billions, to small institutions with only a couple of funds and less than $100 million under management. Only institutional investors are allowed to vote in SMITH’s All-Star program — they are in a position to see the work done across the entire spectrum of analysis. And, each institutional investor is only allowed to vote for one analyst in a sector — every vote is for the first-team analyst. Overall, the ballot provided well deserved recognition for over 380 municipal analysts at 75 firms in 22 different categories.

SMITH's survey, over the past two decades, has documented the rise and fall of research on Wall Street. The 2010 voting indicated the resurgence of buyside research reasserting its primacy in the municipal credit market. As the turmoil on Wall Street continues and the Rating Agencies are under fire, institutional investors are depending on their own internal research capabilities and credit assessments.

**Blue Ribbon Ballot Committee**

Nominations to the ballot are made by a committee made up of portfolio managers from six investment firms. The 2010 ballot was sent out to thousands of institutional investors for electronic voting via the internet using their individual institutional access code.

**SMITH’s Research & Gradings**

SMITH’s Research & Gradings was founded in 1992 by Terence Smith to provide independent third-party research and credit analytics for institutional investors. SMITH’s has become a bellwether research company, often predicting significant trends and spotlighting controversial subjects sometimes months and years before they come to light elsewhere. SMITH’s analysis is an indispensable part of Wall Street and the world’s capital markets.
Over the past 18 years, SMITH’s Research & Gradings has developed, applied and refined its own credit grading system; SMITH’s goes beyond the traditional rating agency approach. SMITH’s private Grading scale provides a comprehensive and unified credit comparison that is consistently applied for all securities — from supranational organizations and sovereign risk gradings to sub-sovereign municipal entities and corporate credit analytics.

SMITH’s Conference series provide unique forums for investors and issuers to discuss matters of mutual interest. SMITH’s Research & Gradings biweekly publication provides an in-depth, conflict-free look at the subjects that matter most to the municipal market.

For more information about the All-Stars:
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For more information on SMITH’s Research & Gradings:
http://www.smithsresearch.net