

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE IMPROVES NETWORK SECURITY AND CUTS COSTS WITH ADVANCED UNIFIED THREAT MANAGEMENT SOLUTION  
Astaro Security Gateway Chosen to Replace Legacy Check Point Solution***

**BURLINGTON, MA, May 17, 2006** --Continuing to demonstrate its growing appeal in a broad array of vertical markets and business sizes, Astaro Corporation ([www.astaro.com](http://www.astaro.com)) today announced that its Astaro™ Security Gateway (ASG) Model 320 is replacing network security alternatives from Check Point® Software Technologies, Ltd. at Florida's Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

According to Sam Heard, President and Founder of Data Integrity Services, an IT consultancy and Astaro channel partner, the Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative data network was under nearly continual attack and the utility was not satisfied with the level of vulnerability protection offered by Check Point products. Now, two months into the Cooperative's switch to the first of two planned ASG 320 installations, Withlacoochee's Senior System Analyst Dicky Brown reports, "The new Astaro platform has met and exceeded all of our expectations with its ease of use, performance and functionality. The detection and blocking of spyware alone is worth every penny of the cost not counting all of its other features. Coming from a Check Point environment, the Astaro product is first class."

The Astaro Security Gateway 320 is a unified threat management (UTM) solution designed to provide network protection for medium-sized businesses and divisions of large enterprises. A built-in hard drive quarantines suspicious files and allows transaction logs to be stored locally. It features gigabit-speed network ports, web based administration and excellent overall performance. The ASG 320 is widely recognized and acclaimed for its ease of use and high return on investment. This has led to it becoming one of the most popular models of Astaro Network Assurance appliances for enterprises seeking to replace legacy "point" solutions from other vendors.

"In addition to the growing range and types of organizations finding our unique form of Network Assurance," said Alex Neihaus, vice president, marketing, Astaro Corp., "it is important to note that our success is not only based on replacement of legacy solutions. When customers upgrade to Network Assurance, they increasingly reject the 'packaging' solutions of late comers and head directly for products like ours, which originated the UTM concept."

Headquartered in Dade City, Florida, the Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative, Inc. was formed in 1941 and today is responsible for the power passing to more than 201,000 users. It is a cooperative organization and has succeeded in delivering among the lowest residential electricity rates on Florida's Suncoast.

Data Integrity Services, founded in 1997, is based in Lakeland, Florida. Data Integrity Services specializes in security, network services and specialized medical applications.

### **About Astaro Corporation**

Astaro Security Gateways ([www.astaro.com](http://www.astaro.com)) control access to networks, guarantee availability and ensure compliance for businesses and enterprises worldwide, while reducing network administration costs. With Astaro Security Gateway, network administrators and designers achieve Network Assurance: functional, high-performance and safe business networks. Astaro Security Gateways have won numerous industry awards, and are protecting over 30,000 networks in 60 countries, including such companies as Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Los Alamos National Labs, Stanford University and Kansas City Life Insurance, Inc.

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