Membership News

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SGIP Supports the Development of the Green Button Initiative

One of the most visible national initiatives in the Smart Grid arena over the past 20 months has been the Green Button for America initiative. SGIP, through Priority Action Plan (PAP) 10, "Standard Energy Usage Information", and PAP 20, "Green Button Energy Services Provider Interface (ESPI) Evolution", has been playing a major role in the program's early successes. (See this article for background on the history of the Green Button initiative.)

Based on the enthusiastic response from the 200 attendees at last month's Green Button Developer Day held on July 18 in Menlo Park, California, the momentum continues to grow. Organized by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, the event attracted a standing-room-only crowd to discuss the potential of Green Button to fuel new products and services in the energy industry.

As described further in this article from TheEnergyCollective.com, two panels featured 10 entrepreneurs who are already utilizing energy usage data to provide valuable services to a broad range of customers. Among the featured speakers were two individuals recently named Presidential Innovation Fellows, who will be working on the "Green Button for America" team: John Teeter is working with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and Matthew Theall is working with the Department of Energy. Theall formerly served as a member of the Board for SGIP. The mood of the audience was also buoyed by the California Public Utilities Commission's announcement a day earlier of a proposed decision giving utilities authority to provide third parties access to customer data when requested by the customer—the goal of "Green Button Download My Data."

One of the challenges described by several of the speakers is the difficulty of ensuring that the energy usage data are truly presented in the standard format as intended. This challenge is being tackled by a group that includes representatives from NIST and from SGIP's Smart Grid Testing and Certification Committee (SGTCC). This group is working closely with the UCA International Users Group (UCAIug), who is establishing an Interoperability Testing and Certification Authority (ITCA) for Green Button testing. The ITCA process has been developed by the SGTCC and is described in the Interoperability Process Reference Manual (IPRM). This group is meeting weekly to develop a testing program for "Green Button Download My Data," with a dry run being planned for this fall. Those interested in learning more about this project can contact Dean Prochaska, acting chair, SGTCC at dean.prochaska@nist.gov.

More details about the Green Button Initiative are available at:
GreenButtonData.org
NIST Smart Grid Collaboration Wiki for Smart Grid Interoperability Standards
SGIP website

Distributed Renewals, Generation and Storage Domain Working Group Quickly Gains Attention of Regulators at recent NARUC Meeting

Distributed Grid was a hot topic at a recent National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) meeting on [enter date] as regulators become increasingly interested in ensuring a level playing field for a technology they see as important for the future of Smart Grid. The goal of Innovation Electricity Efficiency (IEE), a non-profit foundation of the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) is to spread new technologies to utilities and tech firms. "We're at the pilot stage of distributed generation," said Lisa Wood, Executive Director of IEE. "As it continues to grow, we want to make sure that it makes sense from a regulatory perspective and from a pricing perspective."

The Distributed Renewals, Generation and Storage (DRGS) Domain Expert Working Group (DEWG) addresses issues related to Smart Grid integration of distributed renewable/clean energy generators and electric storage and initiates priority action plans and task groups to address these issues and gaps. Read More here.

Fourth and Final Workshop on Cybersecurity Framework Scheduled for September 11-13

When President Obama, on February 12, 2013, issued Executive Order 13636, "Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure," he set a challenging goal

with a very ambitious timetable. The U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) was directed to work with stakeholders to develop a voluntary framework for reducing cyber risks to critical infrastructure. SGIP along with many other electric sector organizations have participated in these NIST workshops as independent stakeholder organizations. Consisting of existing standards, guidelines, and best practices to promote the protection of critical infrastructure, the preliminary framework will be published on October 10, 2013.

In order to meet the deadline for the preliminary framework, NIST has held a series of workshops to gather information and feedback from critical infrastructure stakeholders. The fourth workshop—the final workshop before release of the preliminary framework—will be held Sept. 11-13 in Richardson, Texas, hosted by the University of Texas at Dallas. The purpose of this workshop is to gather stakeholder feedback on a draft preliminary framework. The draft preliminary framework will be available online on August 28, 2013 for participant and stakeholder review.

The target audience for the workshop includes critical infrastructure owners, operators and cybersecurity staff. In particular, the workshop is specifically aimed at those who have operational, managerial, and policy experience and responsibilities for cybersecurity, technology, and/or standards development for critical infrastructure companies.

Participants are asked to review the preliminary draft prior to arrival at the workshop and to come prepared to offer substantive input on the level of guidance; integration with existing standards, practices and guidelines; and potential gaps.

A preliminary agenda and registration details for the workshop are available online. The workshop is open to all stakeholders with no admission fee. The plenary sessions of the workshop will be webcast live, and the recordings of these sessions will be posted online after the workshop.

This event follows three previous workshops held in April, May, and July.

First-time attendees are invited to a pre-workshop meeting on September 10 at 2-4 pm CT to learn about the development of the Cybersecurity Framework with an overview of the Executive Order, the objectives of the framework, and its current status. The pre-workshop attendance will be limited to 150 people (registration online).

For background information on previous workshops and on Executive Order 13636, please visit NIST's Cybersecurity Framework webpage.

SGIP Chairman of the Board Presents at the Purdue Discovery Lecture Series

On August 28, John McDonald, SGIP Chairman of the Board, gave a presentation at Purdue University, entitled *Smart Grid: Concepts, Standards, Deployments and Lessons Learned.* The purpose of the talk was to familiarize participants with smart grid concepts and solutions, including distribution optimization, transmission optimization asset optimization, demand optimization, smart meters and communications and workforce and engineering design optimization. Smart Grid industry standards efforts were discussed, including NIST, SGIP 2.0, IEEE, CIGRE and IEC. An overview of recent smart Grid deployments were given, including the lessons learned from those deployments. Find more information here.

SGIP Executive Director Invited to Multiple South

American Smart Grid Speaking Engagements

SGIP Executive Director and President, Patrick Gannon, has received the honor of being invited to deliver a series of SGIP Standards Day sessions with international liaison partners in Ecuador and Colombia.

Gannon will be meeting with individuals and groups such as the CEO of Centro Nacional de Control de Energía (CENACE); the Ecuadorian Minister of Electricity and Renewable Resources; the REDIE Executive Committee (Redes Inteligentes Ecuador); the CEO of CELEC, an integrated transmission and generation companies; CONELEC, a regulatory organization; and a Distribution Utility on September 2 and 3 in Quito, Ecuador.

"We are very pleased to be part of SGIP 2.0 and our commitment to encourage Ecuadorian utilities interested in the Smart Grid world to be part of this exciting journey," said Gabriel Arguello, CEO of CENACE.

Afterwards, a series of meetings has been arranged with government representatives from the Ministry of Energy, as well as many of the utility and smart grid technology companies operating in Ecuador.

The Colombia Inteligente Initiative (CII) has also invited Gannon to provide a key presentation for a Standards Workshop to discuss progress on Smart Grid Standards on September 4 in Bogota, Colombia. This Standards Workshop will be the starting point for a collaborative work for the "Standards Net" of Colombia Inteligente Network. This is an important activity within the framework of the joint agreement signed by SGIP and CII in December 2012. There Gannon will meet with Dr. Maria Zulema Velez, Executive Director of Instituto Colombiano de Normas Técnicas y Certificación (ICONTEC), which is the Colombian National Standardization Body.

SGIP Chairman John McDonald Speaks with The Weather Channel

The Smart Grid Interoperability Panel's (SGIP) Chairman of the Board, John McDonald, speaks to The Weather Channel about the cause of the 2003 blackout. Smart Grid standards drive interoperability of systems; making the electrical grid more resilient. In this video clip, McDonald describes the significant progress achieved in the past ten years.

Inaugural Conference Update
Progress through Collaboration

Join us at the SGIP Inaugural Conference:

November 5-7, 2013, PGA National Resort, Palm Beach Gardens, FL

SGIP invites you to join us at this not-to-be-missed event that will bring together existing member and non-member stakeholders to join the discussions on the most relevant Smart Grid topics. The conference presents an exceptional opportunity for stakeholders from the energy ecosystem — utilities, manufacturers, regulators and customers — to collaborate and discuss the harmonization of the standards that critically impact, enhance, and accelerate the deployment of a smarter grid.

Adjunct to the conference sessions, there will be an exhibition to showcase sponsors, networking breaks and receptions, as well as opportunities for current working group and committee members to meet together. There will be pre-conference tutorials on SGIP organizational best practices for new and current members during the afternoon of Monday, November 4, which are included in the registration fee.

Find links for the detailed agenda, conference and hotel registration instructions here.

SGIP 2014 Member Dues to Remain the Same

Because of the important technical work being orchestrated by SGIP, SGIP has enjoyed a robust growth in membership. Because of the significant growth in membership and related fees, the Board of Directors is pleased to announce there will be no increase in member fees for the 2014 calendar year.

If your organization is planning for your 2014 budgets and would like assistance with budgeting for your SGIP membership, please contact SGIP Membership Representative, Melissa Bassignani, at membership@sgip.org

Blaine Kohl Appointed Director of Marketing and Membership

SGIP is pleased to announce the appointment of Blaine Kohl into the newly created role of director of marketing and membership. In her new position at SGIP, Kohl will oversee the strategy and rollout of the organization's integrated marketing and communications plan.

"Blaine Kohl possesses a combination of marketing savvy, industry knowledge and the ability to execute on projects that supports our goal of helping our members excel in all areas of power grid interoperability," said Patrick Gannon, Executive Director and President of SGIP. "Kohl's appointment is part of SGIP's aggressive strategy to better communicate with members and the global Smart Grid community."

Kohl is a marketing and business development expert with 20 years of experience driving early-stage technology at for-profit and non-profit organizations. She has helped develop

and launch key technologies and initiatives in networking, big data and analytics for companies such as Intel, Motorola and various startups.

August 2013 SGIP eMeeting: Get the Answers to What's New at SGIP

On August 15th, SGIP presented an overview of the many accomplishments and programs SGIP has orchestrated over the last quarter. This eMeeting was open to both member and non-member stakeholders and provided highlights of the many past quarter's technical accomplishments such as:

- The approval of the Priority Action Plan 22 and Electric Vehicle (EV) Fueling Submetering Requirements
- An overview of the NIST Smart Grid Program
- Numerous ballots beginning in August to determine which standards will be accepted into the SGIP Catalog of Standards.

To learn more details about these activities and how to get involved, access slides and audio transcript here.

Save These Important Dates

Please plan to join us for these upcoming events:

- **September 26, 2013** – 1:00pm EDT – eMeeting
  The Relationship between SGIP and the Research Labs.

- **November 5-7, 2013** – SGIP Inaugural Conference
  PGA National Resort, Palm Beach Gardens, FL

Join SGIP

Any non-member organizations who would like to join SGIP in order to participate in any of these activities are invited to submit a Membership Application, which they can download here.

Join SGIP Today!