

THE CONDUCTOR

News & Activities of SGIP



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President's Update



In April, the “Quadrennial Energy Review: Transmission, Storage, and Distribution Infrastructure” was released. This 338-page document lays out the state of our grid, the changing requirements and the challenges, as well as makes recommendations. Let me point out a few of the recommendations from the Review that align with the work we are doing at SGIP:

- Develop next-generation distribution management system and controls to accommodate new end-use technologies and develop microgrid systems.
- Improve building control system interoperability with new grid control systems.
- Improve grid communications through standards and interoperability.
- Better promote open standards that enhance connectivity and interoperability on the electric grid.

The document can be found on the energy.gov website.

SGIP executed an MOU agreement with the Open Geospatial Consortium in April and named one of our members from NRECA to be our SGIP liaison to OGC. Our organizations will collaborate on promoting standards and ways to work together via test beds to accelerate grid modernization.

Our DRGS (Distributed Resources Generation and Storage) committee released an excellent paper on “Regulatory Challenges to Deploying Distributed Energy Resources.” **This paper can be downloaded from our website.**

Feel free to share it with your regulators and colleagues. I utilized some of the key points from this paper in my talk at the Public Utilities Fortnightly Conference, “Utilities the Uncertain Future,” in DC on April 10th. The topic was well received.

As an organization, our focus is not just on removing technology barriers but other barriers to grid modernization too. Recently, the working group for Priority Action Plan 25 (which is focused on promoting consistent financial data shared in a common format using XBRL) held a meeting at DOE. Information was shared regarding the work financial services companies must handle to accommodate funding requests, the challenges of monitoring to mitigate risk, and the lack of common standards for financial data. Any vendors, institutions, or utilities interested in streamlining funding for new renewables projects should contact smccafferty@sgip.org to get involved.

NIST released its Funding Opportunity Announcement for the “Smart Grid Interoperability Standards

Cooperative Agreement Program.” The SGIP staff will be responding to this RFP which provides funding for 3 years with up to an additional 2 for the awardee. Winning this bid is key and thus a priority focus for the staff for the next 6 weeks.

Last but not least, we continue to focus on growing our membership base and added 5 new members in April bringing our total new members for the year to 15. Join me in welcoming Coergon, Omnetric Corp, National Energy Technology Laboratory, National Instruments, and Open Geospatial Consortium.

Warmest Regards,



Sharon Allan
President & CEO

SGIP Annual Conference Update



[BECOME A SPONSOR! VIEW SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES >>](#)

Keep an eye on our website next week for updates on this exciting Annual Conference. We've changed venues, and added some exciting sessions.

New Updates on SGIP 2015 Focus Areas

GETTING TECHNICAL
UPDATES FROM THE SGIP PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Cybersecurity Framework Use Case: The Cybersecurity Task Force committee is working a case study highlighting how different utilities have implemented various voluntary cybersecurity frameworks (e.g., The Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity, the Cybersecurity Capability Maturity Model, etc.). The case study will highlight the scope in which the frameworks were implemented, goals, the methodology, organizational process, results and

benefits, and key lessons learned. From the perspective from of a utility, they would “much rather follow a common industry approach to implementing the framework, rather than creating their own approach from scratch.” Following a common industry approach to implementing the framework will also add creditability with our executives. The case study will leverage the various energy sector cybersecurity guidelines (such as the DOE Cybersecurity Capability Maturity Model (C2M2), the DOE framework implementation guide, etc.), and “so we don’t end up duplicating our efforts when implementing the C2M2 and the NIST Cybersecurity Framework.” The key takeaways for a reader of the case study will be: an understandable approach for using a framework, areas for consideration that can be potential pain points if not mitigated, and derived benefits.

To learn more about the Cybersecurity Use Case, [please click here](#). If interested in joining the subgroup, please contact Billie Zidek at Bzidek@sgip.org.

GET INVOLVED

Learn about SGIP volunteer opportunities for the various committees and contact the PMO for more information. By working together, we get there faster.

Open FMB: The OpenFMB team is rapidly progressing with its use case development. The team is led by co-Chairs Stuart Laval, Duke Energy, and Stuart McCafferty, SGIP VP Operations. Robby Simpson, GE, is the OpenFMB Vice Chair and Amanda Stallings, Public Utility Commission of Ohio, is the Secretary. The team has a use case sub-group that is co-led by Andy Paylan, Southern California Edison, and Joe Zhou, Xtensible Solutions.

The team has begun working with the North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB) to support NAESB’s standards-development processes. They will develop an OpenFMB

specification and reference implementation by the end of 2015 and hope to have it up for a vote within NAESB in the first quarter of 2016. Joe Zhou and Stuart Laval co-Chair the NAESB activity and Larry Lackey, Coergon, is the official SGIP liaison to the NAESB OpenFMB task force.

The team is developing an FAQ led by Aaron Snyder, EnerNex. The FAQ will address many of the frequent questions and misunderstandings we receive from people new to the project. We plan to have the FAQ published the middle of May.

There are 3 test beds that have been identified to exercise the microgrid use cases being developed by the team. The DOE’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Duke Energy, and CPS Energy will be hosting the testing. The OpenFMB team is meeting on May 14-15 at NREL to finalize the use cases, begin the NAESB standards development activities, and begin discussions on the test bed efforts at the different test bed sites.

The SGIP will begin planning for the OpenFMB demonstration in New Orleans at our Annual Conference in November. Vendors will be encouraged to participate and we will be looking for sponsors for the show. More on that in coming newsletters.

Test Beds: In conjunction with the OpenFMB test bed coordination activities, the SGIP is developing a Catalog of Test Beds for North America. This month the SGIP Smart Grid Testing and Certification Committee (SGTCC) completed its development of a survey for characterizing the different test bed capabilities and needs. We have a list of 52 different smart grid test beds in North America and are conducting surveys of test bed leads to gather information on the type of testing the group is doing, equipment in place, how others can collaborate on the project, whether there are costs for participation, the level of testing underway, simulation capabilities, and other details. The information gathered will help identify opportunities for collaboration across test beds and identify gaps in testing that need to be filled. The SGIP plans to assist its utility and vendor members to locate opportunities for hands-on interoperability field testing on their own systems and equipment.

Sharon Allan named a 2015 Smart Grid Pioneer

Sharon Allan, our President and CEO has been recognized by Smart Grid Today, a premiere Smart Grid media outlet, as one of the Top 50 Pioneers for 2015. This unsolicited recognition places Sharon in the company of her peers, Smart Grid Thought Leaders and change agents. As the face of SGIP, we are proud that Sharon's contributions are being recognized in the industry.

[Click here for the Smart Grid Today announcement.](#)

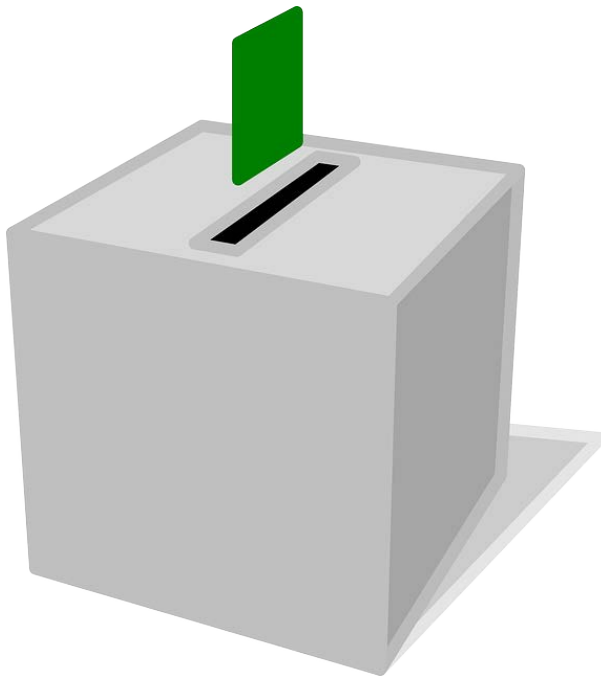
We would like to welcome our new Marketing and Communications Specialist

SGIP would like to welcome our newest hire, Amanda Thaxton.

Amanda is coming to us from the Center for Economic and Policy Research, where she was the Digital Media and Web Associate. She received her Bachelors in Political Science from Elon University in 2006. Amanda recently returned to North Carolina, where she enjoys spending time with her family.



SGIP CoS Candidates Voting on May 15



SGIP will open ballots on six Catalog of Standards candidates on Friday, May 15th. Participating Members who have not already registered can still register to vote until 3pm (ET) on Friday May 15th. You can register by [clicking here](#). The CoS candidates to vote for include:

Guideline for the Implementation of Coexistence for Low Frequency Narrowband Power Line Communication Standards in the Smart Grid (NIST IR 7943)

Standard for Low Frequency (less than 500 kHz) Narrow Band Power Line Communications for Smart Grid Applications (IEEE 1901.2)

Utility Industry Metering Communication

Protocol Application Layer - End Device Data Tables - (IEEE 1377)

Power systems management and associated information exchange - Data and communications security - Part 8: Role-based access control (IEC 62351-8)

Model of a demand-response energy management system (IEC 15067.3)

American National Standard for Utility Industry End Device Data Tables (ANSI C12.19-2012)

SGIP in the News

Electifying Microgrids

-Sharon Allan quoted in *Fortnightly's Spark online*

With Reliability and Security at Stake Microgrids are Going Mainstream

-Sharon Allan quoted in *Forbes online*

The Latest on SGIP and Where the Industry is Heading in Terms of Interoperability

-*ETS Video 1to1 with Sharon Allan online*

Cybersecurity in Focus

-*Engerati, Interview with Sharon Allan, April 16, online article*

Global City Teams Challenge Expo Planned for June 1, 2015

The culminating event of this year's Global City Teams Challenge (GCTC) is coming on June 1, 2015, in Washington, D.C., at the National Building Museum. Save the date; it promises to be a very full and exciting day showcasing Internet of Things (IOT) technologies in smart cities applications.

At the Expo, over 60 teams will be exhibiting their projects. In addition, a number of high-level national and international leaders are scheduled to give presentations. Details, including an agenda and a link for the registration (which is free), are available on the [US IGNITE website](#).

The Challenge, launched by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in September 2014, is a nine-month initiative designed to advance the deployment of IoT technologies—also called “cyber-physical systems”—within a smart city environment. Cyber-physical systems (CPS) involve connecting smart devices and systems—in diverse sectors such as energy, healthcare, manufacturing, and transportation—in fundamentally new ways. These innovations will enable cities and communities to improve services, promote economic growth, and enhance the quality of life for their citizens.

The Challenge has been embraced by dozens of “action clusters” or teams—partnerships between cities/communities and innovators/providers. A number of SGIP member companies have been active on individual teams, and GE and Qualcomm are “program partners” in the overall effort. The goal of each team is to accelerate development of an emerging CPS technology and deploy it by June 2015. **Several of the teams are focusing on energy issues and are deploying smart grid solutions.**

For more information on all aspects of the Challenge, please contact:

Sokwoo Rhee (sokwoo.rhee@nist.gov)

Associate Director of Cyber-Physical Systems Program, NIST

DOE mentions SGIP in Quadrennial Energy Review

SGIP was recently mentioned in the Quadrennial Energy Review. If you would like to read the full text of the review, [please click here](#).

Upcoming Events

May 15: NARUC / EISPC Brown Bag Broadcast - Are We Getting The Grid We Want?

This broadcast is relevant to the SGIP Distributed Energy Resources focus area and is hosted by NARUC this Friday, May 15th at 1pm eastern. [Please click here to join Friday's broadcast.](#)

The power sector is going through a transformation that is a lot like what the rest of the economy is going through: by adding data networks and intelligence to the system we are changing the grid in ways we may not yet fully understand. But if we get it "one piece at a time" will we get the best system, optimized to ensure flexibility, resiliency, and equity among its participants? Or will we end up with a system that works, but is pieced together without a plan? The Eastern Interconnection States Planning Council (EISPC) and NARUC will explore that question as we present our next Brown Bag Broadcast: Designing the Grid – Are We Getting the Grid We Want?

June 1: Global Cities Team Challenge

The culminating event of this year's Global City Teams Challenge (GCTC) is coming on June 1, 2015, in Washington, D.C., at the National Building Museum. Save the date; it promises to be a very full and exciting day showcasing Internet of Things (IOT) technologies in smart cities applications.

June 18: C2M2 and the NIST Cyber Framework: Applying DOE's NIST Cyber Security Framework Guidance.

Next in our series of cybersecurity webinars is a session on the C2M2 and NIST Cyber Framework. This webinar is being taught by Christopher Taylor, a senior Engineering Analyst for Southern Company's IT Security Team.

November 3-5: SGIP Annual Conference. New Orleans, Louisiana.

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