



February 16, 2017

President's Update



Members,

The Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF) released its [2017 Sustainable Energy in America Factbook](#), showing some interesting numbers. Since 2007, U.S. GDP has grown by 12 percent, while energy consumption has fallen by 3.6 percent. And total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions hit a 25-year low in 2016, down 12 percent from their peak in 2007.

There's a lot we can glean from these numbers, but I want to emphasize the momentum we're seeing in grid modernization. DER will be in greater demand if these trends continue. We're seeing fundamental shifts in energy consumption, and we play a pivotal role in building a grid that can provide needed services.

As for SGIP, we're not even through February, and we already have plenty of news for 2017 to report. I recently returned from the DistribuTECH 2017 conference in San Diego, where I and many others from the SGIP community were part of a record-setting attendance surpassing 13,500.

We hosted face-to-face meetings for our Grid Management Working Group, which addresses managing a more complex grid due to the rapid rise of DERs, and our OpenFMB technical working group, which addresses communication between devices in at the grid edge. We also had an SGIP booth on the Exhibitors Floor. And congratulations to SGIP members ComEd and CPS Energy, as they were two of the four companies DistribuTECH selected for its 2017 Projects of the Year awards.

More than 50 people registered to attend the SEPA/SGIP Breakfast Briefing I hosted with Julia Hamm, CEO and President of the Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA), on the first day of the conference. In this meeting, Hamm and I announced our intent to merge our two organizations under the SEPA brand. You can learn more from the [SEPA/SGIP press release](#) and other sections of this newsletter. SGIP will operate as it has for now, but I believe this is an opportunity to offer SGIP members more value.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently gave the Orange Button initiative, which will streamline the way we manage solar data, a positive "green" status, meaning it will continue its strong support. If you want to learn about the success of this initiative over its first year, [see our year one recap](#).

This is year off to a fast start. For those of you I didn't see at DistribuTECH, I hope to see you in Chicago on April 4, 2017, where I'll be speaking on the impact of DER integration at the Grid Modernization Forum in Chicago.



Sharon Allan
President and CEO

Announcements

SEPA and SGIP Announce Intent to Merge

On January 31, Julia Hamm, CEO and President of the Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA), and Sharon Allan, CEO and President of [SGIP](#), kicked off DistribuTECH 2017 in San Diego with an announcement of the intent to merge the two organizations under the SEPA brand and organizational umbrella. Continue reading to learn about what this merger means for these two organizations and for the industry.

[Read More](#)

Grid-edge Generation and Devices Top Research Focus at National Test Beds

Researchers from some of the largest, best-known grid modernization testing facilities in North America are investigating technologies that will move generation, intelligence and control to the grid edge. That's a key finding of SGIP's just published 2016 Grid Modernization Test Bed Survey.

This is the second year that SGIP has conducted its survey, which was initiated to foster industry collaboration by identifying technology under study at various facilities and pinpointing where partnerships are welcome.

To see complete results, [download a copy](#) of the survey from the SGIP website.

[Read More](#)

PMO Update

From Aaron Smallwood, SGIP VP Technology

DOE Grants Orange Button a Green Status on Year 1 Progress, Year One Recap Available

SGIP launched the Orange Button initiative early last year with three other organizations. I'm pleased to say we have had much success with the initiative, validated by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), which gave us a "green" status following a recent review of all year one deliverables and progress. A few weeks ago, the Orange Button awardees (SGIP, SunSpec Alliance, NREL, and kWh Analytics) coauthored a [year one recap](#) for participants and the industry.



OpenFMB F2F Meeting February 1 in San Diego

The OpenFMB team met face-to-face at the DistribuTECH conference on February 1, 2017. We discussed the technical agenda for 2017 and the upcoming meeting schedule. The team agreed to continue a bi-weekly meeting schedule beginning on Thursday, February 16 at 2:00 p.m. ET. If you'd like to participate, please join the OpenFMB team via their Kavi page, or email asmallwood@sgip.org to be added. [Read the full update to learn more.](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)

OpenFMB Cybersecurity Task Force Selects 2017 Work Priorities

The OpenFMB Technical Working Group has agreed on three high-level security topics for the team to pursue in 2017. Read [the full PMO Update](#) to find out what they are.

UNDERWAY – SGIP Catalog of Standards Vote

On January 13th, the SGIP Board of Directors approved moving forward five SGIP Catalog of Standards candidates to a member vote concerning their inclusion into the SGIP Catalog of Standards. The ballot is now open and will close before the end of February. If you are interested in participating in the vote, [read the full Update for more details](#), or email Lesley Strand at lstrand@sgip.org.

New CoS Navigation Tool

We are pleased to announce the release of the new SGIP Catalog of Standards (CoS) Navigation Tool. The CoS Navigation Tool enables a user to select standards by visually navigating the domains, subdomains, and components of the Smart Grid.

The CoS Navigation Tool [can be accessed directly here](#) or at www.sgip.org by selecting "Catalog of Standards" under the "Resource Hub" dropdown menu, and then selecting the "COS Navigation Tool" button. Continue reading for more information.

[Click here for the full Update.](#)

SGIP News

SGIP Turns Heads at Record-breaking DistribuTECH Conference

DistribuTECH was already one of the world's largest electric energy conferences, but when more than 13,500 people filled the San Diego Event Center in San Diego, California from January 31 to February 2, 2017, it was a new record for the annual event. SGIP wasn't just another face in the crowd, as it held important meetings and shared new developments from its community. Click below to find out all about all the ways SGIP was involved at DistribuTECH - and to catch some pictures of the booth and events!



Teresa Hansen, editor in chief at Pennwell (center); Sharon Allan, president and CEO at SGIP (left); and Julia Hamm, president and CEO at SEPA (right)



Allan (left) and Aaron Smallwood, VP of Technology, SGIP, at the SGIP booth

On January 31, before the conference started, SGIP CEO and President, Sharon Allan, hosted a breakfast with Julia Hamm, CEO and President of the Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA). In the meeting, Allan and Hamm [announced their intent to merge their two organizations under the SEPA brand](#). Click below to read more about the pending merger and all the associated details.

SGIP @ DTECH

DistribuTECH and SEPA Cover the SEPA/SGIP Intent to Merge

At a breakfast briefing on February 31, during DistribuTECH 2017, SGIP CEO and President, Sharon Allan, and Julia Hamm, CEO and President of the Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA), announced their intent to merge under the SEPA brand and organizational umbrella.

DistribuTECH and SEPA covered the news with separate articles, explaining how SGIP's focus on technology and operations will cross pollinate with SEPA's market research, events and advisory services. You can read the DistribuTECH article by [clicking here](#) and the SEPA article by published in Utility Dive [clicking here](#).

In addition, the SEPA/SGIP Intent to Merge Announcement was covered in a post DistribuTECH 2017 electronic newsletter. Click [here](#) for a video interview with Julia Hamm and Sharon Allan, conducted by Teresa Hansen (Editor in Chief at Pennwell).

DOE Grants Orange Button Green Status for Solar Data Projects

After success in its first year, the Orange Button initiative will continue working to simplify solar data after the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) gave it a “green” status. If the management of solar data is streamlined, it can boost the bankability of solar projects, thereby attracting investment. But for that to happen, government organizations, customers, utilities, financiers, solar companies, entrepreneurs and more must work together. SGIP has created that collaboration and led stakeholders through many large projects to kick off Orange Button and sustain progress.

[Read More](#)

Orange Button Year One Program Recap



SGIP, SunSpec Alliance, NREL, and kWh Analytics have worked with leaders across several industries to make the Orange Button, which will streamline the way solar data is managed, successful in its first year. To show the progress of the initiative, the organizations published the Orange Button Year One Program Recap. You can read the recap and learn about the achievements of SGIP, as well as the three other organizations leading the initiative.

[To see the recap, click here.](#)

The 2016 Member Survey Results

Starting in November 2016, SGIP conducted its annual member survey. The objective of the survey was to check on SGIP customer satisfaction and find how members feel about SGIP. Fifty-two members took the survey, and here's what we learned from members' input:



- We increased our overall member satisfaction percentages from our baseline 2015 Member Survey.
- Members are extremely and/or satisfied (77.55%) with the organization.
- Majority of members plan to renew their memberships (69%).
- Respondents to the survey are committed and actively participating in the SGIP (68%).
- Most important benefits/activities of membership are rated fairly equal including: member collaboration, Cybersecurity, OpenFMB, and networking.

The 2016 Member Survey shows respondents are committed and actively participating in SGIP. With input from the survey, SGIP can find new ways to help its members collaborate and advance the electric energy industry. Thank you to all who participated.

For those respondents willing to participate, there was a drawing for two \$50.00 USD Amazon gift cards. Congratulations to Richard Mueller and Justin Pittman, winners of the Amazon Gift Cards.

January Grid Management Meeting

Business and operations leaders from utilities met in San Diego, California on January 30, 2017 for a Grid Management Group meeting hosted by SGIP. The meeting took place in the San Diego Convention Center a day before it was filled with electric energy leaders for the DistribuTECH conference.

Attendees shared their work and views on sourcing requirements for utility systems resulting from high penetration of DER. Then, operations and IT professionals mapped out requirements for future advancements in DER integration. Attendees also shared information from recent utility RFIs/RFPs.



Contribute to *The Conductor*

SGIP's monthly newsletter isn't just an opportunity for you to hear from other thought leaders - it's also your chance to share your views and accomplishments with the industry and the SGIP community. If you have opinions, initiatives or upcoming events that can help others in grid modernization, they can be published in *The Conductor*.

Your insight and work could be promoted in several ways:

- **Articles**
- **Case Studies and White Papers**
- **Webinars**
- **Conferences**



>> [Click here for more details on how you can contribute](#)

If you would like to contribute to *The Conductor*, contact Gabrielle Puccio, Vice President of Member and Public Affairs, at gpuccio@sgip.org.

SGIP Webinars You May Have Missed

Evaluation of the Electromagnetic Phenomena Issues on Smart Grid Reliability Webinar

There are many electromagnetic (EM) phenomena that typically are applied to devices to indicate that they would survive in the EM environments that are present wherever there are power lines. Devices are defined as equipment that control power and send information bi-directionally on how that control is administered over Smart Grid-enabled power lines. Fortunately, these standards are meant to replicate the EM environment where the power grid operates from the generation point to the consumer location.

This webinar described the EM environment and the tests that can be used to show the reliability and interoperability of Smart Grid devices. Three experts in EM supporting the SGIP Electromagnetic Interoperability Issues Working Group (EMIIWG) presented the webinar.

Speakers:

Don Heirman, President, Don HEIRMAN Consultants, LLC

Jerry Ramie, Principal and EMIIWG Member, Arc Technical Resources, Inc.

Bill Radasky, President, Managing Engineer and EMIIWG Member, Metatech Corporation

[Click here](#) to watch the webinar replay, and [click here](#) to download the PowerPoint slides.



Did you miss any other SGIP webinars?

If you missed a webinar that interests you, no worries. You can find recorded webinars and a list of upcoming webinars by [clicking here](#).

Upcoming SGIP Events

Economic Value of the Integration of Consumption Preferences in Electric System Planning Webinar

Thursday, February 23, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. EST

The electric power industry has traditionally operated with pricing set by tariffs. Most product and commodity prices are set by market forces of supply and demand, moderated by competition.

This webinar gives an overview of the SGIP white paper, "Economic Value of the Integration of Consumption Preferences in Electric Systems Planning," and examines the potential benefits to operators and customers of using market prices for electricity to influence consumption decisions, rather than fixed tariffs (usually set by regulation).

To learn more and register for this event, [click here](#).

SGIP CEO Sharon Allan Will Speak at the 2nd Annual Grid Modernization Forum on April 4

SGIP President and CEO Sharon Allan will join other electric energy executives as a speaker at the 2nd Annual Grid Modernization forum in Chicago, Illinois from April 4 to 5, 2017. Allan will kick off the forum from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. on April 4 with her presentation titled "Opening Address: Business Change and System Impacts a Result of DER." The presentation will cover current technology, market trends, and collaborations to drive grid modernization, all with a focus on the impacts of DER to planning and operations at utilities. To learn more about the forum, [click here](#).

Industry News

POWERGRID International Names Project of the Year Award Winners

The editors of POWERGRID International magazine—the official publication of DistribuTECH Conference & Exhibition—and PennWell Corp. have announced the four winners for the 2017 Projects of the Year awards.

The POWERGRID International and DistribuTECH award-winning projects honor utilities and contracting vendors from across the country. The utilities include [Indianapolis Power & Light](#), Commonwealth Edison, [CPS Energy](#) and Arizona Public Service. Congrats to SGIP members ComEd & CPS Energy, and all winners!

[Read More](#)

Twin Oaks Computing Announces Release of CoreDX DDS v4

CoreDX DDS v4, the newest offering from Twin Oaks Computing, is full of new features making it the most secure, robust, and flexible version of CoreDX DDS to date. CoreDX DDS is the perfect middleware solution to meet the challenges of today's Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) systems.

CoreDX DDS v4 continues to focus on resources and performance while incorporating new Data Distribution Service standards: DDS Security, Extensible Topics and Types (X-Types), and Remote Procedure Call over DDS (RPC over DDS).

[Read More](#)

Industry Events

SunSpec Alliance 2017 Annual Member Meeting & Networking Event is being held on March 30, 2017 at the Grand Hyatt Union Square, 345 Stockton St, San Francisco, CA.

The 8th Annual SunSpec Alliance Member Meeting is being held in beautiful San Francisco. Communication standards adoption is accelerating around the world and SunSpec technology is at the core of this movement. Don't miss this year's event, which is anticipated to attract more than 100 solar industry professionals from leading fleet operators, financiers, O&M providers, equipment manufacturers, project developers, utilities and related organizations.

For more information and to register, click [here](#).

2nd Annual Grid Modernization Forum, April 3-5, 2017 in Chicago, will closely examine lessons learned to date by industry leaders pushing the frontiers of grid modernization and reliability. Key technology innovators and executives will come together to share perspectives on how best to leverage AMI investment, engage the customer, and take the smart grid to the next level. Case studies of improved network performance, resiliency, outage restoration, and distributed energy resource (DER) integration will be examined with an eye toward determining best practices and technology advances for today's energy ecosystem.

For more information, click [here](#).

Connect with SGIP



LinkedIn Update

We encourage our group members to follow our SGIP Company Page to stay up-to-date on the latest SGIP and industry news. If you don't already, [Follow Us](#) today.

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