NIST Smart Grid Update

March 2013

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Leadership Changes Under Way at NIST Smart Grid Program Office

[Dr. George Arnold has moved to a new role at NIST but will continue to be involved in smart grid interoperability issues](#).   In his new assignment as Director of the Standards Coordination Office, effective March 11, he will lead NIST's overall engagement with the documentary standards and conformity assessment communities.

To reinforce NIST's commitment to the success of the Smart Grid Interoperability Panel (SGIP) and ongoing engagement and support, Dr. Arnold will continue to serve as NIST's senior representative to the SGIP and as NIST's representative on the SGIP Board of Directors.

NIST has launched a nationwide search to fill the vacancy. [The position description—Director, Smart Grid and Cyber-Physical Systems Program Office—is available online](#) and applications will be accepted through April 11, 2013. Until a successor is named, Dave Wollman is directing NIST's smart grid program on an acting basis.

NIST to Play Major Role in Administration's Executive Order on Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity

President Obama's executive order, issued on February 12, directs "the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to lead the development of a framework to reduce cyber risks to critical infrastructure (the "Cybersecurity Framework")."   As outlined by the White House, "the Cybersecurity Framework shall include a set of standards, methodologies, procedures, and processes that align policy, business, and technological approaches to address cyber risks."

The NIST smart grid program—which has included the development of a framework and roadmap for smart grid interoperability standards and the establishment of the Smart Grid Interoperability Panel—helped provide a template for the process that will be followed for the cybersecurity effort. [(See related article, "SGIP Work Deemed Critical to Obama Administration's Cybersecurity Order.")](#)

[In his March 7 testimony to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs,](#) NIST Director Patrick Gallagher discussed how the successes achieved and lessons learned from the smart grid effort will guide the development of the cybersecurity framework.

As an important first step in the Cybersecurity Framework process, NIST has issued a Request For Information (RFI) and is convening a workshop on April 3 to gather information to help identify,

refine, and guide the many interrelated considerations, challenges, and efforts needed to develop the Framework.   For more details on responding to the RFI and/or participating in the workshop (either in person or by webcast), please visit the Cybersecurity Framework website.

Smart Grid Federal Advisory Committee to Meet on April 19

The Smart Grid Advisory Committee is a group of leaders from the smart grid community that provides input to NIST on smart grid standards, priorities, and gaps. Appointed by NIST, the committee also offers input on the overall direction, status, and health of the smart grid implementation by the smart grid industry, including identification of issues and needs.

The committee's next meeting will be held April 19 on the NIST campus in Gaithersburg, MD. Agenda topics include a review of program plans for NIST's smart grid program and an update on the cybersecurity executive order. For more details on the committee meeting, including information on how to register to attend the meeting, watch for an update on the Federal Advisory Committee page on the NIST website.

Reports from NSTC and VCAT Highlight Accomplishments of NIST Smart Grid Program

On February 26, the Obama Administration's National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) released A Policy Framework for the 21st Century Grid: A Progress Report—an update highlighting the Administration's most recent achievements to make the Nation's electric grid stronger, smarter, and cleaner than ever before. Among the achievements discussed in this 11-page progress report are the Smart Grid Interoperability Panel, the Green Button initiative, the Catalog of Standards, and the Cyber Security Working Group.

In a blog post accompanying the release of the NSTC report, White House advisors Nick Sinai and Rick Duke wrote, "Going forward, the Administration will continue to look for new ways to work with the electric sector and state governments to modernize grid infrastructure, facilitate development of new tools to support a clean and efficient energy economy, empower customers to make smart energy decisions, foster new areas for innovation, and protect our critical infrastructure from threats."

The 2012 Annual Report from NIST's Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology (VCAT) also includes a prominent callout to the smart grid program. (The VCAT, currently chaired by Google's Vint Cerf, was established by Congress in 1988 to review and make recommendations on NIST's policies, organization, budget, and programs.)   The opening page of the VCAT report says, "We note with pleasure that during calendar year 2012 the Smart Grid Interoperability Panel (SGIP) was successfully transitioned from an entirely government-funded model to a sustainable model in which the private sector and government share in the funding."

The smart grid program is also highlighted later in the report as prototypical for proposed work in "Next Generation Measurement Services."   The report says, "The VCAT was strongly impressed by the potential of the proposed work and looks forward to seeing progress in this area. [In particular, device self-measurement and potentially reporting via network raises the possibility of the creation of significant databases of information that could be used to analyze and improve efficiency of electrical power usage and other resource utilization."

SGIP 2.0 Makes Major Strides in Transition to Independent Organization

Over the past three years, a major focus for the NIST smart grid program has been the establishment and operation of the Smart Grid Interoperability Panel (SGIP). Since its founding in December 2009, NIST has funded this public-private partnership, and the SGIP's many successes have been remarkable. By bringing a very diverse group of smart grid stakeholders together in a process built on consensus and transparency, the SGIP has created a standards coordination process that is broader, faster, and stronger.

Throughout 2012, NIST and SGIP leadership worked together on a business sustainment plan to transition SGIP to an industry-financed legal entity that continues a working partnership with government. Since January 1, this transition process has accelerated, and SGIP is now functioning as an independent organization—SGIP 2.0, Inc.

Although SGIP 2.0 is now operating independently, NIST will continue to be an active participant and strong supporter.   Therefore, we'll continue to report in this e-newsletter on some of the ongoing work within that organization. Among recent highlights for SGIP 2.0 are the following:

- Naming Patrick Gannon as Executive Director
- Holding first e-conference for members (March 8)
- Passing the milestone of 145 organizational members

As the transition continues in the coming weeks, SGIP 2.0 will begin working with a number of service providers in areas such as Information Technologies, Marketing Communications, Membership Recruitment, and Event Marketing.

We strongly encourage readers to also visit the SGIP 2.0 website (www.sgip.org) for more news and for information on how to get involved.

The "SGIP Administrator" role played by Enernex for the past three years has now been brought to a close. At NIST, from those of us who have been fortunate enough to work with them, we offer our Enernex colleagues our sincere thanks for their time, effort, and expertise.