LETTER OF INTENT
TO COOPERATE ON SMART GRID COORDINATION

SMART GRID INTEROPERABILITY PANEL

SMART GRID COORDINATION GROUP

PREAMBLE

Europe and the United States have identified Smart Grids as a major means for the necessary transformation of the power grid. In the United States, this effort is rooted in the U.S. Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007 Title XIII, Section 1305. To address this effort, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has been instrumental in the establishment of a public/private partnership, the Smart Grid Interoperability Panel (SGIP). The SGIP is composed of members representing the broad electricity stakeholder community and enlists these members to provide direction for the development and adoption of standards that will support interoperability of smart grid devices and systems. The SGIP's efforts include the development of an interoperability architecture to support organizing and prioritizing smart grid standardization activity. The SGIP is already in the process of addressing priority action plans to help accelerate standards development in critical areas. In filling these standards gaps and enhancing existing standards, the SGIP does not directly develop standards, but works with regional and international standards setting organizations; providing requirements and determining that the completed standards meet these requirements.

In the European Union, the overall Smart Grid standardization effort is rooted in the EU Mandate M/490, and coordinated with the related work in other EU Mandates (e.g. M/441 &nd M/468). Under that Mandate, a Smart Grid Coordination Group (SG-CG) has been established to coordinate Smart Grid standardization activities across the 3 recognized European Standards Organizations, namely CEN, CENELEC and ETSI. The SG-CG does not in itself write standards but will work with the standards organizations in developing a Reference Architecture, identifying standards pertaining to the Smart Grid and identifying standards gaps, together with setting up the tools to manage the development of the Smart Grids standards over time.

In September 2011, NIST and the SG-CG authored a joint whitepaper that addresses cooperation between NIST and the SG-CG and also states "that a Letter of Intent between the NIST-initiated Smart Grid Interoperability Panel (SGIP) and SC-CG will be developed to describe more specific areas and methods of cooperation in support of the principles established in this white paper."

This Letter of Intent describes the areas and methods to enhance the coordination between the SGIP and the SG-CG in fulfillment of the joint white paper.
AREAS OF COLLABORATION

The following areas are identified as particular priorities for collaboration to help assure that smart grid interoperability standards are applicable globally and across the widest possible range of applications.

Short Term Activities Would Be:

Establishment of a Harmonized Conceptual Model
The bedrock that will enable the common evolution of a global Smart Grid standards infrastructure is the development of a harmonized conceptual model that will enable commonality at a conceptual level while still supporting historical regional differences in grid technology (e.g., frequency, voltage, etc.) and business models (national, privatized, prepay, etc).

In addition, the corresponding activities may involve sharing architectural concepts, structures, and organizing principles including models, definitions, tools, and methodologies.

Use Cases and Application Descriptions
These activities may involve sharing of use case documents describing important applications that require interoperability between systems and/or technologies. Focus areas for these use cases include:

i. Applications that are common in EU and US systems (e.g. systems in areas like distribution management systems or demand response)
ii. Interfaces for interoperability
iii. Requirements for these interfaces between different systems, stakeholders, actors, etc.

Cyber Security Requirements
SGIP and SG-CG intend to further develop smart grid security methodologies. These activities should foster alignment of common concepts and further developments of security requirements and their impacts on interoperability standards. Examples include:

i. Requirements derived from use cases
ii. Risk assessments
iii. Security recommendations solutions

Medium to Long Term Activities:

Smart Grid Interoperability Architecture
As a further objective, functional architectures in support of Smart Grid power delivery and communications infrastructure should be harmonized.
Testing and Certification of Smart Grid Interoperability Standards Compliance
These activities may include sharing of information related to testing and certification requirements associated with smart grid interoperability standards. Examples include requirements for:

i. Testing and certification approaches
ii. Facilities for testing and certification
iii. Examples

In order to facilitate the collaboration in the areas described above, specific activities are envisioned.

Cooperation on International Standardization
In general, in addition to the specific areas of collaboration above, the two organizations will cooperate in facilitating the timely development of international specifications to remedy identified gaps in Smart Grid standards.

WORK METHODS

Information Sharing
The parties may share information and documents in the areas outlined above. Review of the information will be conducted and feedback provided to enhance collaboration and consistency in the standards efforts.

Joint Workshops
The organizations will arrange or organize regular workshops to facilitate information sharing and open discussion on harmonization of their respective activities. The workshops will be held alternating between locations in Europe and the USA.
CODICIL

This letter is an invitation to collaborate and shall not be construed to create any legal obligation on the part of either side.

In particular, the Chair of the SGIP GB and the Chairman of the SG-CG acknowledge that nothing in this letter:

(a) creates an exclusive relationship between the Parties;
(b) will restrict either Party's individual interactions with third parties or each other;
(c) gives either Party the authority to act on behalf of the other side;
(d) requires SGIP GB or SG-CG to conduct themself in a manner inconsistent with their respective charters; or commits either side to expend funds;
(e) forms a legally or financially binding agreement; or
(f) authorizes or obligates either side to expend, exchange, or reimburse funds, services, or supplies, or transfer or receive anything of value.

The foregoing accurately reflects our mutual understanding, as acknowledged by executing this Letter of Intent.

Agreed and Accepted on the fifth day of December in the year two thousand and eleven.

John McDonald
Chair of the Smart Grid Interoperability Panel Governing Board

Ralph Sporer
Chairman of the Smart Grid Coordination Group