From: sgipgb.administrator
To: SGIP-ALL@SMARTGRIDLISTSERV.ORG;
Subject: SGIP Member News: SGIP Governing Board Celebrates First Birthday
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Smart Grid Interoperability Panel

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Dear SGIP Colleague,

This week marks the one-year anniversary of the first meeting of the SGIP Governing Board (GB). Thanks to the hard work, strong commitment, and keen brainpower of many people, it's been an exceptional year for the SGIP GB.

When the Governing Board met for its first meeting—on December 8, 2009, at the NIST headquarters in Gaithersburg, Maryland—we faced a daunting challenge. I've compared our situation to that of a pioneer looking at territory that has never been plowed. We had to mark the boundaries, clear the land, plow the earth, and build good relations with our neighbors. Only then could we expect to begin planting and harvesting.

I'm pleased to report that we've made great progress in our first year. Here's a brief overview of what the SGIP Governing Board has accomplished in each of four key areas: vision, structure, policy, and outreach.

Vision
We quickly realized that the efforts of the newly-established SGIP GB must fit, not only within the context of NIST's mission under the Energy Independence and Security Act, but also within the context of the missions of the Department of Energy, FERC, the Obama Administration, and the industry. In promoting the vision of the Governing Board to support these perspectives, we've made great strides through the creation of the Vision, Mission, and Roadmap (VMR) Task Force. The important work of this committee has resulted in a vision statement for the Governing Board that is tailored around the concept of interoperability and will guide our efforts as we progress into our second year. An extension of this vision is the Home Area Network—a new concept to the electrical industry and another area where we've established a Task Force to identify and resolve emerging issues.

Structure
Following the initial steps of establishing the SGIP and its Governing Board, the Board elected Steve Widergren as the Plenary Chair, and he has guided the SGIP admirably over the course of its inaugural year. The organizational structure we established for the SGIP includes a variety of groups with a diverse set of functions and tasks. (For a graphic overview of that structure, see the attached chart.) As the organizational complexity grew and we saw the need to coordinate the efforts of all these groups, we established a Program Management Office (PMO) to develop a Priority Action Plan (PAP) life-cycle and a process for PAP working group approval. As you read this, several of the PAPs are at or near completion, and the first wave of Smart Grid standards has made its way through the open, consensus-based coordination process. The Domain Expert Working Groups (DEWGs), now numbering six and aimed at identifying strategic issues in different Smart Grid domains, have been meeting regularly. Finally, to ensure the long-term stability of our structure into the future, we nominated the new slate of candidates for the Board positions that are open for election.

Policy
The Board's policy activities center on the work of the Bylaws and Operating Procedures Working Group (BOPWG). The BOPWG is responsible for maintaining and evolving the SGIP Bylaws and establishing the ground rules for administering and operating rationally and consistently as an organization. It is an open committee where the Administrator, SGIP, and SGIP GB members can get judicious decisions on Bylaws interpretation. Based on member feedback and suggestions, the BOPWG has revised the Bylaws twice and received near unanimous approval from the SGIP GB voting members. It has also established new operating procedures for managing the consensus and quorum processes within all the working groups of the SGIP. Realizing the importance of creating a policy related to intellectual property rights, the Board also established the Intellectual Property Rights Working Group (IPRWG).

Outreach
Because the Smart Grid will involve and affect so many different constituencies, we established several groups to spearhead our outreach efforts. In the international arena, we established the International Task Force; we've begun building bilateral partnerships with a number of countries; and we've planned our first international SGIP meeting, to be held July

2011 in Montreal, Canada. To facilitate our outreach to the public, to regulators, industry, academia, and consumers, we established the Communication, Marketing, and Education (CME) Working Group; the group has produced two flyers introducing the SGIP to various audiences. One of our most successful and important outreach efforts occurred in July in Sacramento, when the Governing Board co-located its meeting with NARUC (National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners). A number of important relationships, established at that meeting, have grown into ongoing productive partnerships.

This impressive array of accomplishments has only been possible because of the contributions of many individuals. First and foremost, I would like to thank the SGIP membership for their efforts to coordinate and accelerate the development of Smart Grid interoperability standards. The important work being done in the Working Groups and the PAPs is vital to fulfilling the vision of the Smart Grid.

The significance of your efforts is also being noticed by our sponsors at NIST. As George Arnold noted during the Grid-Interop meeting last week in Chicago, "Your work this past year has been nothing short of remarkable. With several hundred billion dollars projected to be spent on the Smart Grid over the next two decades, it's absolutely critical that we establish the interoperability standards that will ensure we realize the long-term benefits of those investments."

I also commend my fellow Governing Board members, as their leadership and vision for the SGIP is what motivates and strengthens the organization as a whole. Lastly, I thank the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and EnerNex for their continued efforts in facilitating the work of the SGIP and providing the support to its members and SGIP GB.

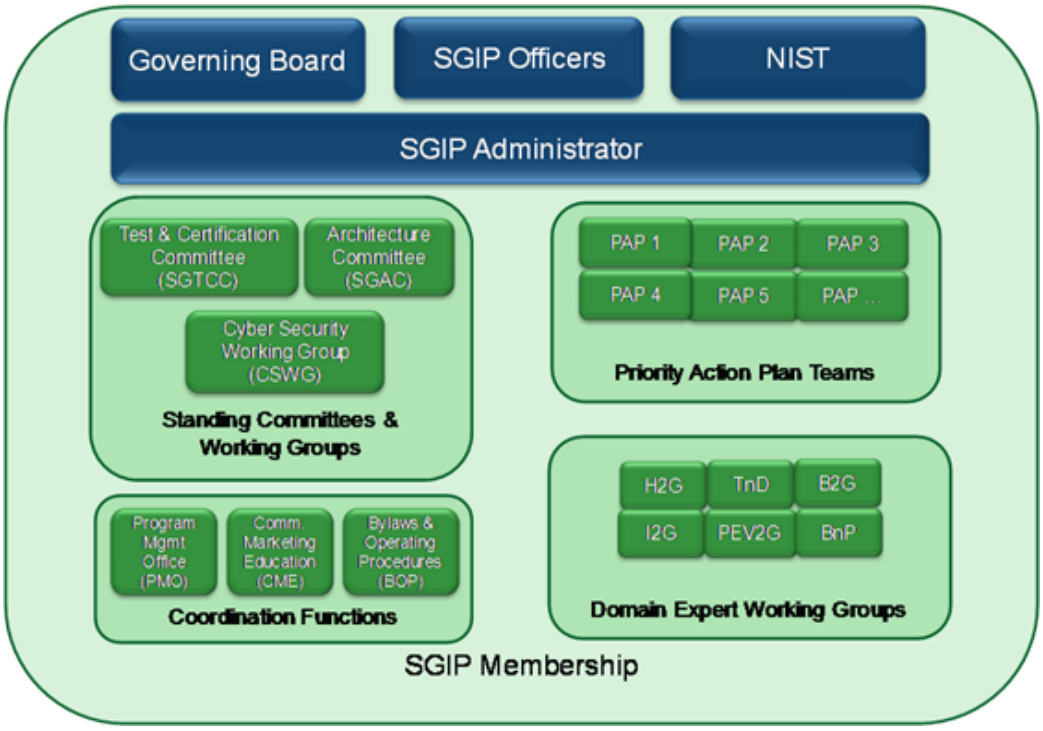
It's been such an intense and busy year that it's important for all of us to pause for a moment and reflect on how far we've come. Vint Cerf, as one of the most visible industry professionals who is a GB member, notes, "The Smart Grid will only be as smart as its standards permit. Interoperability among its diverse components is crucial to successful integration, evolution, and the provision of competitive products and services. The SGIP community and its Governing Board deserve credit for the progress made in only 12 months' time. Much work lies ahead and the spirit of cooperation and reasoned debate will hasten its completion."

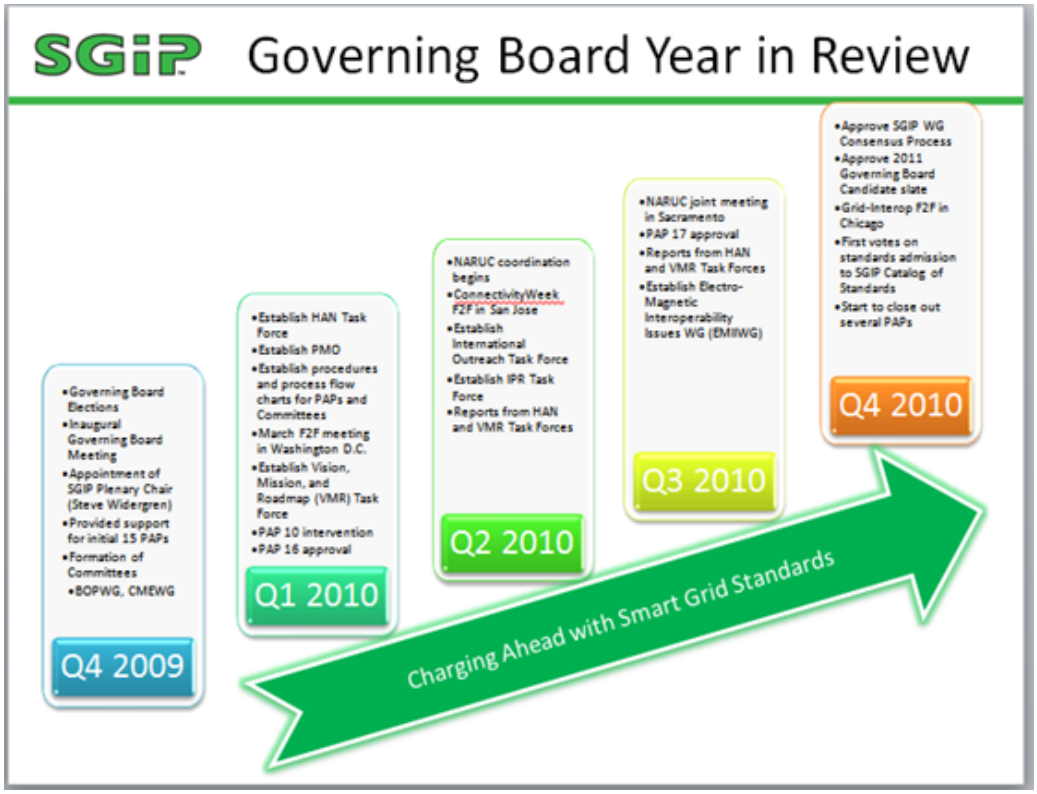
The membership of the SGIP GB is an extraordinarily diverse group, and for many of us, this is the most diverse professional group we've joined. Our ability to come together and work together for the common goal of the Smart Grid interoperability Panel is inspiring, and I believe it sets the stage for another successful year in 2011. The Board's challenges for the next year include broadening participation among our diverse stakeholder groups; accelerating timelines without compromising quality; and focusing on strategic issues as they arise in the rapidly-changing frontier called the Smart Grid.

Lastly, I want to thank John Caskey, GB Vice Chair, and George Bjelovuk, GB Secretary, for their guidance and support this year.

With sincere thanks and best wishes,

John McDonald
Chairman, SGIP Governing Board





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Contact SGIP Leadership and Administrator at **sgipgb.administrator@enernex.com**

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