



Dear SGIP Colleague,

The Smart Grid Interoperability Panel has just completed its second year, and it's been a successful and highly productive year. As Chair of the Governing Board (GB), I'm pleased to provide this annual overview of the Board's activities—and to thank the hundreds of individuals who have devoted countless hours of expertise and energy to advance our shared vision for an interoperable Smart Grid.

In my [year-end letter](#) twelve months ago, I compared our inaugural year to that of a pioneer looking at territory that had never been plowed. In that first year, our tasks were to mark boundaries, clear land, plow the earth, and get acquainted with our neighbors.

In our second year, we've expanded on our successes in each of those four areas. Even more importantly, we've harvested our first crop—including nine interoperable standards that make up the first entries into the SGIP Catalog of Standards.

Here's a brief overview of what the SGIP Governing Board has accomplished this year in each of five key areas: vision, structure, policy, outreach, and deliverables.

Vision

Our overall vision for the SGIP remains unchanged. We are a public/private partnership that defines requirements for essential communication protocols and other common specifications and coordinates development of these standards by collaborating organizations.

In the past year, the value of that SGIP vision has been recognized nationally and internationally, as illustrated by these three examples:

- National Recognition: A June 2011 [White House report](#) from the National Science and Technology Council discussed the SGIP and wrote that the ongoing Smart Grid interoperability process “promises to lead to flexible, uniform, and technology-neutral standards that can enable innovation, improve consumer choice, and yield economies of scale.”
- International Collaboration: Signing ceremonies have formalized Letters of Intent between the SGIP and Smart Grid standards groups representing other countries.
- Membership Growth: By year end, the number of member organizations in the SGIP has grown to 728, with nearly 1900 individual members.

Structure

Just as the Smart Grid ecosystem expands and evolves, so too must the SGIP's structure. The overall framework for the SGIP and its working groups—with Priority Action Plans (PAPs), Domain Expert Working Groups (DEWGs), Standing Committees, and Task Forces—is serving us well, and it provides the flexibility we need to address emerging needs and issues.

In 2011, we added several new groups:

- A new Priority Action Plan—PAP 18: SEP 1.x to SEP 2 Transition and Coexistence.
- A new Domain Expert Working Group (DEWG)—the Distributed Renewables, Generators, and Storage (DRGS) DEWG.
- A new Standing Committee—the Implementation Methods Committee.

We were also able to close several groups, as three Priority Action Plans completed their assignments:

- PAP 0 (Meter Upgradeability)
- PAP 1 (Role of Internet Protocols in Smart Grid)
- PAP 11 (Electric Transportation)

Policy

In one of its most important policy accomplishments this year, the Governing Board established the [Catalog of Standards](#), which will serve as a compendium of standards, practices, and guidelines considered relevant for the development and deployment of a robust and interoperable Smart Grid. As outlined by the Board, the process by which a standard is added to the Catalog of Standards draws on the expertise of various SGIP working groups and requires a “super-majority” consensus vote by the SGIP Plenary.

In another important policy action, 24 individual members of the SGIP GB filed comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in response to FERC’s technical conference related to “Smart Grid Interoperability Standards” ([Docket No. RM11-2-000](#)), held January 31, 2011. In its July 19, 2011 order, FERC stated, “We believe that the best vehicle for developing smart grid interoperability standards is the NIST interoperability framework process, including the work of the SGIP and its committees and working groups.”

Outreach

This has been an especially active year for international outreach efforts, as we demonstrate our strong support for making Smart Grid standards as international as possible. In May, several Governing Board members represented the SGIP at a dialogue on Smart Grid Interoperability Standards, held by Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation’s (APEC) Regulatory Cooperation Advancement Mechanism on Trade-related Standards and Technical Regulations (ARCAM). In July, we held our first international SGIP face-to-face meeting, in Montreal, Canada.

In July, we signed a Letter of Intent with the Korea Smart Grid Standardization Forum (KSGSF) to cooperate on Smart Grid efforts. And in December, we signed a Letter of Intent with the European Union’s Smart Grid Coordination Group (SG-CG). Both Letters of Intent outline collaborative activities (such as information exchange and joint workshops) and content areas of shared interest (such as use cases, architecture, cybersecurity, and testing and certification). In October, we formed an International Task Force to prepare a business plan, prioritize countries for collaboration, and manage signed LOIs.

Deliverables

Among the SGIP’s most important deliverables will be the standards and protocols placed in the SGIP’s Catalog of Standards. In 2011, when we made the first entries into the Catalog, we launched a valuable resource that will serve the Smart Grid community for years to come. To date, nine standards have been approved by the SGIP membership to be included in the Catalog:

1. IETF RFC6272: Internet Protocol Standards for Smart Grid
2. NAESB REQ18/WEQ19: Energy Usage Information
3. SAE J1772TM: Electric Vehicle and Plug in Hybrid Electric Vehicle Conductive Charge Coupler
4. SAE J28361: Use Cases for Communication Between Plug-in Vehicles and the Utility Grid
5. NEMA SGAMI 1: Requirements for Smart Meter Upgradeability
6. NISTIR 7761: Guidelines for Assessing Wireless Standards for Smart Grid
7. IEEE C37.238 IEEE Standard Profile for Use of IEEE 1588 Precision Time Protocol in Power System Applications
8. WS-Calendar Common Schedule Communication Mechanism for Energy Transactions
9. SAE 2847-1 Communication between Plug-in Vehicles and the Utility Grid

As I write this letter in mid-December, several standards are nearing completion of the consensus process, and the number of standards in the Catalog will reach double digits early in 2012. We anticipate that the Catalog will eventually contain hundreds of documents.

The many accomplishments noted above would not have been achieved without the support of our member organizations and the hard work of many individuals who serve on SGIP Working Groups. I also thank the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and EnerNex for their dedicated support.

One group that deserves special recognition at this time includes those Smart Grid leaders who have served on the SGIP Governing Board and are leaving the Board at the end of 2011: Jamshid Afnan, Vint Cerf, Paul De Martini, Mark McGranaghan, Todd Rytting, and Le Tang. These distinguished colleagues exemplified the traits we needed as we launched the SGIP two years ago. They were experienced and visionary; they were good communicators and diligent ambassadors; and, most importantly, they kept the best interest of the Smart Grid community as their top priority. They have earned our sincere appreciation.

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