



SMART GRID INTEROPERABILITY PANEL

***SGIP Catalog of Standards Development  
Process Statement (DPS): MultiSpeak  
Specification***

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SGIP Catalog of Standards Development Process Statement (DPS): MultiSpeak  
Specification

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Initiative**

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## THE SGIP

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## 1 Background and Purpose

The entity proposing inclusion of a Standard into the Catalog shall provide materials describing the process under which the proposed specification was developed. This document is part of the required information provided to the SGIP as described in section 4.1 step 2 in the Catalog of Standards Process Description document [1].

### 1.1 Content of the Development Process Statement (DPS)

The National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA) [2] describes characteristics desirable to aid the uptake of technologies developed, in part, with United States government support. OMB Circular A-119 [3] elaborates the definitions and requirements for voluntary consensus standards. Support for these characteristics is therefore encouraged, although not required.

The organization should make statements of support for the maxims “i” through “v” which are quoted below for reference (NTTAA reference, OMB Circular A-119 section 4 “What are Voluntary, Consensus Standards”). Please refer to “ANSI Essential Requirements: Due process requirements for American National Standards” [4] for definitions of terms. If the SSO is ANSI Accredited, provide the reference paragraph number from this reference as the support paragraph.

#### Properties of Voluntary Consensus Standards:

The organization should indicate how support for each maxim in the excerpt below, from the above-mentioned reference, is achieved for the standard:

- a. For purposes of this policy, "voluntary consensus standards" are standards developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standards bodies, both domestic and international. These standards include provisions requiring that owners of relevant intellectual property have agreed to make that intellectual property available on a non-discriminatory, royalty-free or reasonable royalty basis to all interested parties. For purposes of this document, "technical standards that are developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standard bodies" is an equivalent term.
  - (1) "Voluntary consensus standards bodies" are domestic or international organizations which plan, develop, establish, or coordinate voluntary consensus standards using agreed-upon procedures. A voluntary consensus standards body is defined by the following attributes:
    - (i) Openness.
    - (ii) Balance of interests.
    - (iii) Due process.
    - (iv) An appeals process.
    - (v) Consensus.

Additionally, the intellectual property rights associated with use of this standard should be described.

## 1.2 Standards Setting Organizations (SSO) and the DPS

It is assumed that for any Standards Setting Organization (SSO) there is a common process model that guides all developments of the standards by that body. For this reason, the SGIP maintains a single DPS per SSO. However, there are occasions where there are per-standard circumstances that require additional elaborations. In these cases an additional DPS is constructed to cover the differences. Standards Information Forms (SIF)s point to the correct DPS to use for that standard.

In the sections below *italicized* text describes the information to be described. Use this text as guidance for completing this DPS. Retain this descriptive text during edits.

## 2 Definitions

Appeals Process	A written set of procedures that contain an identifiable, realistic and readily available appeals mechanism for the impartial handling of substantive and procedural complaints regarding any action or inaction. [4]
Balance of Interests	Participants from diverse interest categories (stakeholders) are sought to participate in the standards development process with the objective of achieving balance in the process [5].
Consensus	General agreement, but not necessarily unanimity, and includes a process for attempting to resolve objections by interested parties, as long as all comments have been fairly considered, each objector is advised of the disposition of his or her objection(s) and the reasons why, and the consensus body members are given an opportunity to change their votes after reviewing the comments [3].
Due Process	Any organization, company, government agency, or individual with a direct and material interest has a right to participate by expressing a position and its basis, having that position considered, and appealing if adversely affected [5].
Necessary Patent	A patent or patent claim that <b>is</b> necessary or essential to implement a Standard as described and set forth in

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the relevant Standards-Setting Organization's (SSO) governing rules and procedures.

(Note: the SSO may define "Necessary Patents" that are the subject of its IPR Policy differently. The Sponsoring Organization and/or SSO is asked to provide information on the defined terms in this document)

Openness

Participation in the standard development process shall be open to all persons who are directly and materially affected by the activity in question, and the committee's activities are publicly available [5].

Sponsoring Organization

Organization that creates, manages, and is otherwise responsible for the maintenance of a specification for consideration in the Catalog.

Standard

The term "standard," or "technical standard" as cited in the Act, includes all of the following: (1) Common and repeated use of rules, conditions, guidelines or characteristics for products or related processes and production methods, and related management systems practices. (2) The definition of terms; classification of components; delineation of procedures; specification of dimensions, materials, performance, designs, or operations; measurement of quality and quantity in describing materials, processes, products, systems, services, or practices; test methods and sampling procedures; or descriptions of fit and measurements of size or strength [3].

Standards-Setting Organization (SSO)

Organization that has defined processes and produces and maintains specifications normally called standards, best practices, and guidelines.

### 3 Properties of Voluntary consensus standards bodies

*For each section below, provide a description of how this SSO supports the topic. If the SSO does not have support for the topic, make that assertion. If the Standard was produced under an ANSI-accredited process, this statement can be a simple statement referring to this ANSI accreditation of the organization and its application to this standard.*

#### 3.1 Standard documents that this DPS applies to

This Development Process Statement applies to the MultiSpeak Specification and its constituent parts including, but not limited to: (i) a data model documented in Unified Modeling Language (UML) class model and Extensible Markup Language (XML) schema formats which includes data objects, interface definitions, and message structures, (ii) service definitions defined in Web Services Description Language (WSDL) contracts, (iii) schema documentation in hypertext markup language format which describes the schema, (iv) the specification document, (v) implementation guidelines documents, (vi) use cases describing selected business processes addressed by MultiSpeak, and (vii) security standards and requirements pertaining to MultiSpeak-enabled applications.

#### 3.2 Openness

The MultiSpeak Initiative strongly supports openness in all its activities. The following sections detail the ways in which this objective are implemented.

##### 3.2.1 Membership in the MultiSpeak Initiative

Fee-based membership in the MultiSpeak Initiative is open to any individual or organization that subscribes to the purposes of the MultiSpeak Initiative and pays the required annual administrative fee. There are currently four classes of membership: vendor members, auditing members, sponsoring members and utility members.

##### 3.2.2 Public website.

The MultiSpeak Initiative believes in openly sharing information about its efforts. As a result, the MultiSpeak Initiative currently makes available a considerable amount of information openly to the public, without charge and without membership requirements. That information is periodically updated and can be found at <http://www.multispeak.org>.

##### 3.2.3 Publically-available documents.

In order to further foster the openness of the MultiSpeak effort, the MultiSpeak Advisory Board periodically makes publically available, at no cost, at <http://www.multispeak.org>, various MultiSpeak documents including:

- Past versions of the MultiSpeak specification, schema, and UML model.
- Users guides.
- Security documents.
- Keys to Interoperability documents detailing selected groups of MultiSpeak use case sequence diagrams.
- An extensive library of technical papers about MultiSpeak.

Note that the most recent MultiSpeak specification, schema, UML model, and a use case library are available to any current MultiSpeak member. Any person or organization, member or not, may obtain the then-current specification on a one-time basis by paying the equivalent of one year's vendor member's dues.

### **3.2.4 Integrator training.**

The MultiSpeak Initiative offers training to individuals seeking to understand the MultiSpeak specification. These periodic Integrator Training sessions are open, on a fee-basis to any interested individual seeking to get more information about MultiSpeak. Integrator training is free to current MultiSpeak members; however, nonmembers can attend the training sessions with the payment of an appropriate fee as described at <http://www.multispeak.org>.

### **3.2.5 Member access openness.**

Essentially all activities of the MultiSpeak Technical Committee are available to current MultiSpeak members through a member's website. Information on that website currently includes the following types of information:

- Meeting guidelines and Intellectual Property Rights documents.
- Current and historic MultiSpeak Specifications.
- UML models.
- Web services description language files (WSDLs), which document the defined interface contracts.
- Schemas.
- Revision histories for Specification.
- Issue resolution documents – a list of all issues raised by Members and their resolution or current status if in process.
- Implementation guidelines.
- Use cases.
- Extensive library of other MultiSpeak and outside organizations' documents.
- Meeting minutes.
- Organizational agreements.
- Announcements, including upcoming meetings.
- Meeting folders containing meeting details, working agendas, documents or proposals to be discussed at upcoming meetings.

### 3.2.6 Open meetings.

MultiSpeak Technical Committee and Subcommittee meetings must be properly called and scheduled in advance using the MultiSpeak collaborative tools. Meetings scheduled or conducted in such a manner as to exclude the participation of any MultiSpeak Member are subject to appeal. In order to enable the openness of MultiSpeak proceedings, meetings are scheduled and conducted so as to permit the presence of as many MultiSpeak members as is logistically feasible. Any MultiSpeak member may attend any MultiSpeak Technical Committee or Technical Subcommittee meeting

### 3.2.7 Summary of openness in member activities.

There are a number of open policies related to the Technical Committee and its activities. These include: (i) meetings open to all MultiSpeak members, (ii) there are no closed meetings, (iii) advanced notification is given of the holding of Technical Committee meetings, (iv) any member may propose an agenda item for meetings, (v) release of agendas in advance of all meetings, and (vi) preparation of detailed minutes following all meetings which are distributed by Member technical e-mail list server and also available on the members' website thereafter.

## 3.3 Balance of interests

The MultiSpeak Specification is a specification for the exchange of data among application software within the utility enterprise. Therefore, the stakeholders affected by developments in the specification are (i) primarily, those vendors who supply software or software contained in hardware to the utility market, (ii) secondly, those consultants who supply consulting services to enhance interoperability or functionality to utility software, and (iii) thirdly, utilities who write their own software or interfaces between existing software in their utility. The MultiSpeak Initiative seeks members from diverse interest categories among those organizations and individuals who might be interested in the exchange of information among enterprise software applications. At the present time, MultiSpeak has representatives from the following interest categories as members:

- ***Domestic and international software and hardware vendors supplying the utility industry.*** MultiSpeak has specifically strove to make sure that no one vendor group or no single vendor within a product type has dominated or will dominate the development of the specification. Therefore, the following vendor groups are currently represented. Within each group there are multiple MultiSpeak current members:
  - Advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) vendors.
  - Automated vehicle location (AVL) vendors
  - Customer engagement software (CE) vendors
  - Customer information system (CIS) vendors.
  - Data historian (DH) vendors

- Demand response (DR) vendors
  - Distribution management system (DMS) vendors
  - Engineering analysis (EA) vendors
  - Enterprise service bus (ESB) vendors
  - Field design (FD) vendors
  - Finance and accounting (FA) software vendors
  - Geographic information systems (GIS) vendors
  - Geographic information systems viewer (GV) vendors
  - Meter data management (MDM) vendors
  - Outage management system (OMS) vendors
  - Pre-paid metering (PPM) vendors
  - Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) vendors
  - Work management system (WMS) vendors.
- **Domestic and international electric utilities.** The MultiSpeak specification is a product of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. However, membership is strongly encouraged among all types and sizes of utilities. To date, the following utility groups are among MultiSpeak members:
    - Distribution electric cooperatives.
    - Generation and transmission electric cooperatives.
    - Investor-owned utilities.
    - Municipal utilities.
    - Trade associations of electric utilities
  - **Domestic gas utilities.**
  - **Domestic water utilities.**
  - **Consultants.** Consultants providing a range of service to the utilities industry are represented among MultiSpeak members.
  - **Research organizations.** Industry organizations such as EPRI are MultiSpeak members.
  - **Members that sit on the technical committees of other SSOs.** MultiSpeak Technical Committee members include individuals that serve on other standards setting organization technical committees such the IEC 61968.

### 3.4 Due process

According to ANSI [ANSI, 2010], due process “means that any person (organization, company, government agency, individual, etc.) with a direct and material interest has a right to participate [in the development of consensus standards] by: a) expressing a position and its basis, b) having that position considered, and c) having

the right to appeal.” They further define ten requirements of due process as shown in Table 1. Also shown in the Table are the sections of this SGIP document that describe how MultiSpeak meets those ten requirements.

**Table 1**  
**MultiSpeak Technical Committee Due Process Summary**

<b>Due Process Requirement</b>	<b>Section(s) This Document</b>
Openness	3.2
Lack of dominance	3.3
Balance of interests	3.3
Coordination and harmonization	3.4.1
Notification of standards development	3.4.2
Consideration of views and objections	3.4.3
Consensus	3.6
Appeals	3.5
Written procedures	3.4.4
Compliance with normative ANSI policies and administrative procedures	This applies to ANSI-Accredited Standards Developers (ASDs) only.

### **3.4.1 Coordination and harmonization**

The MultiSpeak Initiative has a strong commitment to the use and/or harmonization with well understood and widely-adopted standards and protocols. Considerable recent efforts have been to investigate existing standards and interfaces that might play a role during the development and refinement of MultiSpeak interface designs. MultiSpeak personnel are in constant contact with (i) representatives of other Standards Development Organizations (SDOs), (ii) Priority Action Plan (PAP) committees, (iii) the Transmission and Distribution Domain Expert Working Group (DEWG), (iv) the NIST Smart Grid Interoperability Panel, and (v) other sources of standards development activities in order to coordinate and harmonize the MultiSpeak Specification with other standards.

The MultiSpeak Initiative Technical Committee harmonizes with other standards in three modes: (i) standards that become a part of the MultiSpeak Specification itself, (ii) standards in domains other than the utility enterprise with which MultiSpeak-enabled products need to harmonize, and (iii) other standards in the utility domain.

***Standards that are a part of the MultiSpeak Specification.*** The MultiSpeak Technical Committee harmonizes with the requirements of a number of standards by incorporating those requirements within the MultiSpeak specification itself.

These include:

- WS-I Basic Profile Version 1.1 [Basic Profile, 2006] (<http://www.ws-i.org/Profiles/BasicProfile-1.1.html>) .
- Simple Object Access Protocol V1.1 (SOAP) [W3C SOAP, 2000] (<http://www.w3.org/TR/2000/NOTE-SOAP-20000508/>)
- Web Services Description Language V1.1 [W3C WSDL, 2001] (<http://www.w3.org/TR/wsdl>)
- Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) V1.1 (<http://www.w3.org/Protocols/rfc2616/rfc2616.html>)
- Extensible Markup Language (XML) [W3C XML 1.0, 2004] (<http://www.w3.org/TR/2000/REC-xml-20001006>)

Within the standard itself, MultiSpeak has also incorporated:

- ANSI C12.19/MC19 for revenue metering end device tables.
- The Open Geospatial Consortium Geography Markup Language (GML) for the exchange of location-based information addressing geographic data requirements.
- ISO 8601 - Data elements and interchange formats, specifically timestamps with durations but does not support the duration designation as specified in ISO 8601.
- ISO 4217 - Codes for representation of currencies and funds.

**Standards in domains other than the utility enterprise.** It is MultiSpeak policy that the Specification needs to contain sufficient semantic content so that a server on the edge of the MultiSpeak domain (utility enterprise) could communicate outward to external standards in other domains. Examples of these interfaces are:

- Smart Energy Profile (SEP 2.0)
- Open Automated Demand Response (OpenADR)
- Distributed Network Protocol Version 3 (DNP3)
- AMI-Enterprise (AMI-ENT)
- NAESB PAP 10

**Other standards in the utility domain.** The MultiSpeak Technical Committee is also actively harmonizing with standards that overlap its coverage within the utility domain. Most notable among these are IEC 61968-9 and IEC 61968-11 of the Common Information Model (CIM).

### 3.4.2 Notification of standards development

Notice of any meeting of the MultiSpeak Technical Committee or its Subcommittee must be given in a timely and adequate manner.

### **3.4.3 Consideration of views and objections**

**Consideration of Views.** During meetings all views are considered. By consensus a direction is developed. Subsequent to the decision any MultiSpeak member may, at any time, file a written comment regarding the decision reached. The MultiSpeak Technical Coordinator shall make a decision regarding the concern. If the member is dissatisfied with the decision thus reached, that member may appeal the decision, in writing to the MultiSpeak Advisory Board which will make the final decision. The MultiSpeak Advisory Board is the governing body of the organization and consists of four utility member representatives, four vendor member representatives and one at-large representative, which may be chosen from any membership class.

**Dispute Resolution.** Any MultiSpeak member, at any time, can request the resolution of a problem with the Specification or its interpretation. That request should be made in writing to the Technical Coordinator. The Technical Coordinator is responsible for trying to resolve disputes as they arise. The first level of resolution is to review applicable portions of (i) prior Technical Committee, Technical Subcommittee and webinar meeting minutes, (ii) the Specification itself or (iii) artifacts of the Specification to determine whether an interpretation of the current specification can resolve the dispute. If the dispute has arisen due to an issue that is not sufficiently defined in the specification, the Technical Coordinator may choose to refer the topic for discussion by the Technical Committee or one of its subcommittees. If the parties involved continue to be unsatisfied with the proposed resolution, then they may submit the details of the dispute, in writing, to the Advisory Board for resolution.

### **3.4.4 Written procedures**

The MultiSpeak Technical Committee develops and enhances the MultiSpeak Specification, a specification that defines standardized interfaces among enterprise software applications commonly used by utilities. The processes by which the MultiSpeak® Technical Committee and its Subcommittees function are extensively described in “MultiSpeak® Technical Committee Process”, Version 1.0, dated 10/23/2012.

## **3.5 An appeals process**

Any MultiSpeak member, at any time, can appeal any action or inaction of the MultiSpeak Technical Committee or any of its Subcommittees, first in writing to the MultiSpeak Technical Coordinator and then, if the issue is not sufficiently resolved, to the MultiSpeak Advisory Board.

### 3.6 Consensus

The conduct of activities of the Technical Committee has always been performed with careful attention to minority opinions throughout the specification development process. Compromise has been a necessary but valuable part of the specification development process. To be successful, the consensus process depends on the ability of members to work together with an attitude of collaboration and collegiality. Each member is expected to participate and contribute in good faith to the standardization activities undertaken by the committee(s) to which they belong.

The consensus reached is documented carefully in minutes from all MultiSpeak Technical Committee, Technical Subcommittee and webinar meetings. Those minutes are distributed to all interested current members by e-mail list server and posted to the Member's website.

If there is disagreement that cannot be handled by negotiation during the meeting, then any member, at any time, may either (i) submit a request in writing for the Technical Coordinator to address the issue with all interested parties, (ii) submit a request for review of the issue by the MultiSpeak Advisory Board and/or (iii) call for a ballot either in a meeting or by making use of the balloting process. Additional information on dispute resolution and the appeal process is provided in the text above.

## 4 Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

### 4.1 Applicable IPR-related policies

The following IPR-related policies are currently in effect:

**Intellectual Property Rights.** *Detail of MultiSpeak IPR can be found in "Software Integration Initiative: Policy on Intellectual Property".*

[http://www.multispeak.org/membership/MembershipDocuments/Documents/MultiSpeakIPRPolicy\\_053012.pdf](http://www.multispeak.org/membership/MembershipDocuments/Documents/MultiSpeakIPRPolicy_053012.pdf)

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**Trademark License Agreement.** *"MultiSpeak Trademark License Agreement". This document is available at:*

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<http://www.multispeak.org/membership/MembershipDocuments/Documents/MultiSpeak Trademark License Revised 11-2007.pdf>

Other policy documents issued by the MultiSpeak Initiative:

**Technical Committee Process.** “MultiSpeak® Technical Committee Process”, October 15, 2012. This document is available at:  
<http://www.multispeak.org/membership/MembershipDocuments/Documents/Technical Committee Process Version 1 0 2012 10 23.pdf>

**Anti-Trust Guidelines.** “MultiSpeak® Initiative – Guidelines for Antitrust Compliance”, April, 2003. This document can be found at:  
<http://www.multispeak.org/vendors/VendorDocuments/Documents/Antitrust Meeting Guidelines.pdf>

**Operating Guidelines.** “Software Integration Initiative Operating Guidelines”, January 12, 2012. This document can be found at:  
<http://www.multispeak.org/membership/MembershipDocuments/Documents/SoftwareIntegrationInitiativeOperatingGuidelines.pdf>

**Membership Agreement.** “Software Integration Initiative Membership Agreements”.  
<http://www.multispeak.org/membership/MembershipDocuments/Documents/MultiSpeak Membership Agreement.pdf>

## 4.2 IPR Disclosures and Declarations

The following notice, placed in MultiSpeak documents explains the copyright, trademark and logo rules. Applicable documents were listed in the section above.

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## **5 Document References**

[1] Catalog of Standards Process Description Document, Version 1.0, 23 May 2011, <http://collaborate.nist.gov/twiki->

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[sggrid/pub/SmartGrid/StandardOperatingProcedures/Standards Catalog Process and Structure V1.0.pdf](#)

[2] National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA),

[http://standards.gov/standards\\_gov/nttaa.cfm](http://standards.gov/standards_gov/nttaa.cfm)

[3] OMB CIRCULAR NO. A-119, Revised.

[http://standards.gov/standards\\_gov/a119.cfm](http://standards.gov/standards_gov/a119.cfm)

[4] ANSI Essential Requirements: Due process requirements for American National Standards (January 2010)

<http://publicaa.ansi.org/sites/apdl/Documents/Standards%20Activities/American%20National%20Standards/Procedures,%20Guides,%20and%20Forms/2010%20ANSI%20Essential%20Requirements%20and%20Related/2010%20ANSI%20Essential%20Requirements.pdf>

[5] NIST Key Terms in Standardization, Global Standards Information:

<http://gsi.nist.gov/global/index.cfm/L1-5/L2-44/A-87>

## 6 Revision History

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Rev. Number	Date	Author/Editor	Summary of Revisions
0.7	20110701	Marty Burns	Original Version
0.7	20110825	Marty Burns	Updated with IPRWG inputs
0.9	20111101	Marty Burns	Cleanup of text and removal of comments
0.9	20120127	Marty Burns	Moved into SGIP template update and removed per-standard parts
0.95	20121015	Warren P. McNaughton/Gary A. McNaughton	Added draft content for the MultiSpeak Specification.

### 6.1 Contributors

*This document was written by Cornice Engineering, Inc., the MultiSpeak Technical Coordinator, and modified and approved by the MultiSpeak Initiative Advisory Board.*

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