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IEEE Provides Leadership for Smart Grid Initiative around the Globe

PISCATAWAY, N.J. – 1 June, 2009 –IEEE, the world’s largest technical professional association, is at the forefront of both helping the world’s citizens understand the benefits of smart grid, while also creating a forum for collaboration for all entities involved in this groundbreaking initiative. Members of IEEE have been working diligently on numerous aspects of smart grid development and execution, including developing interoperability standards, ensuring that the smart grid is environment-friendly and enacting protocols to maintain the grid’s security.

As the smart grid development program has become a top priority - to move nations toward energy independence and environmentally sustainable economic growth - IEEE and other prominent organizations are working in collaboration to create a framework of standards that will bring together numerous industries, including power, security, technology, manufacturing, government, and communications toward furtherance of this vision. In the U.S., Dr. E. James Prendergast, Executive Director of IEEE, participated earlier this month in the Smart Grid Leadership meeting, organized by Commerce Secretary Gary Locke and Energy Secretary Steven Chu, which brought together industry leaders to share their vision on how to utilize standards to create a roadmap for successful smart grid implementation.

“IEEE is excited to be a central force in the smart grid initiative, as it will be impactful to life as we know it,” commented Dr. Prendergast. “In the future, the smart grid is going to be the infrastructure that powers our daily lives. Not only will the smart grid be able to grow with our evolving energy needs as new technologies enter the power equation, but it will also help reduce blackouts and energy pollution as well. This is something that will benefit humanity on many levels, for developed and developing nations alike.”

IEEE is engaged in a number of smart grid initiatives globally. On 4 May, 2009, IEEE announced a smart grid initiative for the power engineering, communications and information technology industries with the launch of a project to create “The IEEE Standard 2030 Guide for Smart Grid Interoperability of Energy Technology and Information Technology Operation with the Electric Power System (EPS) and End-Use Applications and Loads.” The IEEE-SA P2030 guide will provide a knowledge framework for understanding and defining smart grid interoperability of the electric power system with end use applications, setting the stage for future standards related to the smart grid. The kickoff meeting of this standards body will take place at Intel’s headquarters in Santa Clara, CA, 3-5 June, 2009.

“In order for the smart grid to be successful, there needs to be a set of well-established standards in place that all industries and organizations involved can utilize,” said Dr. W. Charlton Adams, Jr., President, IEEE Standards Association. “IEEE, with over 375,000 members among the academic, government and private sectors worldwide, is in a unique position to bring everyone together to collaborate to create this standard foundation. Working hand in hand with other leading organizations to create one set of standards for the smart grid is the way we can ensure success.”

Nearly 2500 papers focused on smart grid have been published in over 40 IEEE journals to date. To provide a primary source for the various smart grid facets such as design, implementation, and utilization, IEEE is creating a single Smart Grid Transaction – intended as a cross disciplinary and international archival journal aimed at disseminating results of research on smart grid. This integration of information will be vital to the careers of researchers and engineers involved in the development of smart grid technologies. Launch of the new Smart Grid Transaction is scheduled for 2010. At the forefront of this emerging initiative, IEEE's Power & Energy Society (PES) sponsors an Intelligent Grid Coordinating Committee. This committee serves to address the technologies that apply to activities within the IEEE PES, identify opportunities for their future applications, and provide a forum for the free exchange of information.

IEEE hosts many conferences and meetings throughout the world where information and best practices are exchanged. Over the last four years, over 100 smart grid technical sessions have been offered with growing interest. Examples of upcoming IEEE hosted conferences with smart grid activities include:

- At IEEE PowerTech 2009 in Bucharest, Romania 28 June – 2 July, 2009, scientists and engineers throughout Europe will gather to discuss topics such as artificial intelligence techniques in power systems, developing the concept of smart grids and restructuring of the electricity industry and transnational networks.
- IEEE PES will hold a meeting 26-30 July, 2009 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada focused on the theme, "Investment in Workforce and Innovation for Power Systems", with major focus on Smart Grid including an in depth look at subjects such as integrating renewables and storage into the grid.
- The IEEE PES/IAS Conference on Sustainable Alternative Energy in Valencia, Spain, 28-30 September, 2009, will advance the smart grid discussion and development by focusing on the implications of a high penetration of wind power and other alternative energy on transmission and distribution networks; as well as that of distributive generation.
- Following on the unqualified success of the IEEE PES-sponsored Asia-Pacific Power and Energy Engineering Conference (APPEEC 2009), plans are underway for APPEEC 2010, which will be held 28-31 March in Chengdu, China and which will offer a substantive smart grid "track" covering topics such as operation and control, distributed generation, smart meters and renewable energy applications.

Policy development is occurring worldwide to address environmental concerns and increase energy independence. Smart grid is a significant technological enabler allowing consumers to participate in energy usage decisions while optimizing grid operations, enhancing grid security, and opening new markets for alternative energy production. "IEEE has been providing leadership for smart grid development and continues to build upon its vast membership, expertise, materials and conference venues to facilitate understanding," said Wanda Reder, President, IEEE PES and NTDC (New Technology Directions Committee) Smart Grid Chair. "IEEE is leveraging its strong foundation and collaborating to evolve standards, share best practices, publish developments and provide related educational offerings to advance technology and facilitate successful deployments throughout the world."

If you are looking for resources and experts to provide insightful commentary on smart grid topics, please contact IEEE at ieee-PR@ruderfinn.com.

About IEEE

IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.), the world's largest technical professional society, is commemorating its 125th anniversary in 2009 by "Celebrating 125 Years of Engineering the Future" around the globe. Through its more than 375,000 members in 160 countries, IEEE is a leading authority on a wide variety of areas ranging from aerospace systems, computers and telecommunications to biomedical engineering, electric power and consumer electronics. Dedicated to the advancement of technology, IEEE publishes 30 percent of the world's literature in the electrical and electronics engineering and computer science fields, and has developed nearly 900 active industry standards. The organization annually sponsors more than 850 conferences worldwide. Additional information about IEEE can be found at <http://www.ieee.org>.

About IEEE Power & Energy Society

The IEEE Power & Energy Society (PES) is the leading provider of scientific and engineering information on electric power & energy for the betterment of society and a trusted resource dedicated to the technical, informational, networking and professional development needs of its members. With over 24,000 members around the globe representing every facet of the electric power and energy industry, PES is at the forefront of the rapidly changing technological advancements that impact everyone's future. PES is celebrating its 125th year of service in 2009.

About IEEE Standards

The IEEE Standards Association, a globally recognized standards-setting body, develops consensus standards through an open process that engages industry and brings together a broad stakeholder community. IEEE standards set specifications and best practices based on current scientific and technological knowledge. The IEEE-SA has a portfolio of over 900 active standards and more than 400 standards under development. For information on the IEEE-SA, see: <http://standards.ieee.org>.

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