

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**GridWise™ Architecture Council elects new chairman and members**

*Forfia, Gooding, Mater and Taft join re-elected members*

**RICHLAND, Wash.** – The [GridWise Architecture Council](#), or GWAC, has elected a new chairman, Mark Knight, and four new council members: David Forfia, Jeff Gooding, James Mater and Jeffrey Taft. The team assumed their new positions on January 23, 2013.

“I look forward to leading GWAC, and together with our excellent new and existing members, working to advance the implementation of an interoperable, smart grid,” Knight said.

Mark Knight is an executive consultant at CGI. Mr. Knight draws on over 25 years of experience to deliver business solutions that leverage integration to support innovative, effective, and practical solutions for CGI’s Energy and Utility clients. His background includes a mix of information technology work and business process work both as a consultant and as a utility employee in the UK and the US and has spanned several areas including distribution, transmission, metering, systems integration, deregulation, interoperability, asset management, and risk management. Mr. Knight has been a member of the GridWise Architecture Council since January 2012 and is a member of IEEE PES and a graduate of Imperial College, London.

David Forfia is vice president of IT and director of enterprise architecture at the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, or ERCOT, where he is responsible for the successful delivery of all infrastructure services and the systems which maintain electric grid operations 24/7. He also serves as program director for a key portion of Texas Nodal. He has more than 25 years of experience in the industry, and began his career at Austin Energy in 1987. Forfia received his bachelor’s from the University of Texas and MBA from St. Edward’s University, both in Austin. Forfia is PMP certified and currently sits on the Board of the Smart Grid Interoperability Panel.

Jeff Gooding is general manager of IT at Southern California Edison, where he leads a team of smart grid architects, communications and cyber security engineers to support SCE’s Advanced Technologies Organization. He has more than 25 years of experience in the power systems industry, managing a variety of projects during his career, including the Irvine Smart Grid Demonstration and the Tehachapi Wind Energy Storage Project. He is a founding member of NIST’s Smart Grid Interoperability Panel and received both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

James Mater founded and has held several executive positions at QualityLogic Inc. from June 1994 to present. He is currently co-founder and general manager, smart grid, working on QualityLogic’s Smart Grid strategy, including work with GWAC, the Pacific Northwest Smart Grid Demonstration Project, and giving papers and presentations on interoperability. Prior to QualityLogic, James held Product Management roles at Tektronix, Floating Point Systems, Sidereal and Solar Division of International Harvester. He is a graduate of Reed College and Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Jeffrey Taft is Distinguished Engineer and Chief Architect at Cisco Systems where he has led architecture development and directed delivery teams for several smart grid projects including: METC,

## GridWise® Architecture Council

CenterPoint Energy Smart Grid Integration Proof Point, and Xcel SmartGridCity™. Dr. Taft has more than 30 years of experience in the power systems industry, spanning various aspects of transmission and distribution and multiple vertical markets. He received his doctorate in electrical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh, and is a member of IEEE, IEEE PES and CIGRE.

The new members are joined by two re-elected members: H. Ward Camp, vice president of regulatory and energy policy at Landis+Gyr North America, and Tracy Markie, president of Engenuity Systems.

### **About the GridWise Architecture Council**

The GridWise Architecture Council was convened in 2004 by the Department of Energy with support from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. As a volunteer council, the GWAC includes practitioners and leaders with broad-based knowledge and expertise in power, information technology, telecommunications, financial systems and other fields who are working together toward a coordinated GridWise vision—the transformation of the nation's energy system into a rich, collaborative network filled with decision-making information exchange and market-based opportunities.

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