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GRIDWISE™ ARCHITECTURE COUNCIL CONCLUDES SUCCESSFUL INTEROPERABILITY WORKSHOP WITH SUPPORT FOR FUTURE ACTIONS

Experts work to establish a framework for integration that will move the nation's electric power system into the Information Age

WASHINGTON—April 23, 2007—A framework for integration and operation between power grid automation subsystems is gaining support, thanks to the GridWise Architecture Council's Interoperability Workshop last week, the Council reported today.

The GridWise Architecture Council (GWAC), a group of respected leaders committed to the technological advancement of the electric power system, gathered 45 technical experts at an Interoperability Workshop April 11-12 in Dallas, Texas to discuss and modify a draft GWAC "context-setting framework" on interoperability. The framework will guide issues related to the interaction of the growing number of automation systems that help manage electricity in buildings, manufacturing facilities, and electric distribution and transmission systems.

Jack Mc Gowan, chairman of the GWAC, and Rik Drummond, past chairman, presented the results of the Interoperability Workshop during sessions of the GridWeek conference in Washington, DC this week.

The GWAC was created by the U.S. Department of Energy to promote the modernization and interoperability of the electricity system, using common standards and protocols for automation, information technology, interconnectivity, and communications to improve the integration, operation and efficiency of the grid from end-users up through transmission and distribution to power plants.

The information technology experts attending the workshop represented a broad range of backgrounds including electric utilities, telecommunications, automated manufacturing and automated buildings industries. During the workshop, the group discussed how to integrate all of the systems that must collaborate for our complex electric system to function properly. They suggested improvements to the framework document, identified issues that need further development and prioritized actions for coordination amongst all sectors of the electricity community.

"It's critical that the buildings and manufacturing automation sectors work with electric utilities and their vendors to resolve electricity system integration issues," said Jack Mc Gowan, President of Energy Control, Inc., and GWAC Chairman. "While the experts offered great

improvements to our framework document, the fact that they recognized it as a good start indicates we're on the way to a collaborative solution.”

Workshop participants also began planning an interoperability symposium to be held this fall. The symposium will engage a broad spectrum of stakeholders to further improve the integration of emerging automation systems supporting the electric system.

“The brainpower assembled for this workshop is truly impressive,” said Erich Gunther, Chief Technology Officer of EnerNex Corporation and a GWAC member. “The ideas generated here will serve us well as we engage policy and decision-makers, as well as, other technologists and solution providers, in future interoperability forums.”

The GWAC Interoperability Workshop was sponsored by the Department of Energy and organized by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Proceedings will be available in early May on the GWAC Web site.

Several parallel efforts are underway to advance communications, control and electronic information exchange related to the electric system. These efforts could ultimately affect the way most homes and businesses use electricity, as well as, the electric generation, transmission and distribution systems themselves. The workshop provided a forum for important technical leaders to come forward to advance the application of information technology and automation to increase the efficiency, reliability and security of energy systems used by all sectors of the economy. Developing an overarching perspective to these efforts will help industry develop solutions that avoid confusion, reduce duplication of efforts and allow for effective growth of transformational market opportunities.

For more information visit www.gridwiseac.org and www.gridwise.com

About GridWise

GridWise is a vision for the future electric system built upon the fundamental premise that information technology will profoundly transform the planning and operation of the power grid, just as it has changed business, education and entertainment. It will form the “nervous system” that integrates new distributed technologies—demand response, distributed generation and storage—with traditional grid generation, transmission and distribution assets to share responsibility for managing the grid as a collaborative “society” of devices.

About The GridWise Architecture Council

The GridWise Architecture Council, chartered by the U.S. Department of Energy, is a group of 13 experts volunteering their time to articulate the guiding principles for an intelligent, transactive, energy system of the future, and to guide and promote measures to achieve that vision. The GWAC’s practitioners and leaders combine knowledge and expertise in power, information technology, telecommunications, financial systems and other relevant sectors to transform the nation’s electricity system into a more reliable, affordable, secure network in which users collaborate with suppliers in an information- and value-rich market environment.

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