

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GRIDWISE® ARCHITECTURE COUNCIL TESTS INTEROPERABILITY TOOLKIT AT GRIDWEEK WORKSHOP

*The Decision-Makers Interoperability Checklist has recently been updated
with an expanded set of questions for utilities and vendors*

RICHLAND, Wash. — The GridWise® Architecture Council (GWAC) worked with smart grid experts and leaders attending GridWeek 2010 to test elements of a toolkit designed to help them make more informed smart grid investment and policy decisions. Workshop participants learned about the elements of the GWAC Interop Toolkit and then applied the recently updated Interoperability Decision Maker's Checklist to evaluate examples of proposed smart grid projects.

"Electricity and power grid infrastructure leaders and decision makers can use the GWAC Interop Toolkit to inform very complex discussions involving a myriad of advanced devices and systems, and how they could and should work together in a smarter grid," said Ron Ambrosio, GWAC chairman. "The ideas and suggestions generated here will serve us well as we engage policy and decision-makers, technologists and other solution providers in future interoperability forums."

During the workshop, interactive group discussions allowed workshop participants to practice applying the GWAC Interop Toolkit to typical smart grid investment scenarios. Participants also discussed and provided input on a new tool, the GWAC Interoperability Maturity Model. When finished this model will be added to the Toolkit. The GWAC Interop Toolkit includes the GridWise® Interoperability Constitution, Interoperability Context-Setting Framework document, the Decision Maker's Checklist and three whitepapers focused on environmental, financial and reliability benefits. These tools help utilities and regulators define and assess interoperable smart grid architectures.

"Holding the workshop at GridWeek provided a great opportunity for attendees to dive into the value of interoperability and the use of structured methods and tools that help identify gaps and prioritize action to advance interoperation," said Steve Widergren, plenary chair of the Smart Grid Interoperability Panel and the founding administrator for GWAC.

"As important, the feedback gained from the diverse set of backgrounds represented by the attendees through the workshop exercises will enhance GWAC work products and improve their usefulness to the smart grid community."

"While standards development is important, standards alone do not ensure interoperability. GWAC will continue its efforts to develop and promote tools for use by decision makers and others trying to apply the principles of interoperability," Widergren said.

The GridWise Architecture Council 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.

For more information visit www.gridwiseac.org

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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.

The GWAC will host the third Grid-Interop Forum December 1 - 3, 2010, in Chicago. For more information visit www.grid-interop.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.

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