

Conference To Focus on Modernizing U.S. Electric Grid

Washington, D.C.—GridWeek, a four-day gathering of grid modernization stakeholders, will be held April 23-26, 2007, in Washington, D.C. The event, the first national GridWeek, will provide the opportunity for a variety of organizations focused on grid modernization to participate in collaborative sessions that include leading speakers on grid modernization activities.

The conference will focus on a variety of key themes and issues, including the benefits of and the enabling technologies required for a smart modern grid, as well as the policy matters requiring change for grid modernization. Financial models, challenges and opportunities will be topics of discussion in addition to the future new paradigm of a 21st century electric system. The fourth edition of the National Town Meeting on Demand Response series will be held as part of GridWeek.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE) is a partner in the organization of GridWeek, and DOE's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) is endorsing the event. NETL supports OE as it leads federal efforts to modernize the electric grid, enhance security and reliability of the energy infrastructure, and facilitate recovery from disruptions to energy supply. The partnership of OE and NETL improves the ability of the energy sector to prevent, prepare for, and respond to threats, hazards, and supply disruptions, as well as to be proactive in efforts to modernize the electricity grid.

"At NETL, we are working to modernize the electricity transmission and distribution (T&D) systems through industry partnerships and research and development projects," said Carl O. Bauer, director of NETL. "We are managing OE's Modern Grid Initiative, a nationally coordinated framework for grid modernization."

The Modern Grid Initiative seeks to accelerate the nation's move to a modern electric grid by creating a flagship industry-DOE partnership that invests in demonstrating the clear impacts and benefits of integrating state-of-the-art technologies and approaches. The initiative works to develop a shared national vision for a modern grid; coordinate a stakeholder-driven process for coordination, collaboration, and sharing of information; and coordinate regional technology integration projects that are indicative of a modern grid's capabilities.

GridWeek has received broad sponsorship from industry, ranging from utility companies and energy groups to information technology (IT). The event has been developed for organizations and groups whose common goal is renewing the nation's power infrastructure through collaboration and cooperation. Attendees, among others, will include utility companies, federal and state law makers and regulators, technology and service groups, electricity consumer groups, academia, smart grid initiatives and thought leaders. Attendance requires pre-registration, available online at www.GridWeek.com.