Siemens, NB Power and University of New Brunswick push Smart Grids in Canada

Aligning with the vision of the Canadian province New Brunswick for a sustainable electricity future, the Smart Grid Innovation Network (SGIN) was launched by founding partners Siemens, New Brunswick Power (NB Power) and University of New Brunswick (UNB). SGIN is a joint testing platform that aims to serve as a catalyst for innovation and the development of a next generation electricity eco-system in New Brunswick, while supporting opportunities for innovation that can be applied to the global energy marketplace.

“For Siemens the Smart Grid Innovation Network is a catalyst for innovation and development of smart grid products and services. In a genuine environment under real-world conditions, usage and quality of new products will be clearly visible”, said Michael Schneider, Head of the business segment Power Technology International (PTI) within the Siemens Energy Management Division.

The Smart Grid Innovation Network will allow businesses to design, develop and test smart grid related products and services, offering industry players access to an incredible eco-system that will help them over technology hurdles, and allow them to evolve their product or service to the next level of ‘smart’ so it can communicate and cooperate with other products and the electrical grid. SGIN can not only support them to contribute to a successful smart grid implementation in New Brunswick, but also to give them the opportunity to take their product or service to the world.

The SGIN is centered around three interconnected labs: the Smart Grid Research Lab at the University of New Brunswick, the Interoperability Lab at Siemens and the Products and Services Lab at NB Power. The lab at the University provides R&D in the early stage of the innovation cycle, providing a platform for developing new
smart grid concepts, models and algorithms to feed into technology development; as well as to support testing in a simulated grid environment. The Interoperability Lab at Siemens conducts R&D and allows vendors to test the interoperability of various smart grid product and services components in a configurable sandbox environment. The Products and Services Lab at NB Power conducts R&D, utility grid interoperability testing, and support acceptance testing by validating product requirements and compliance readiness. Will also support training and provide a platform for outreach and demonstration activities.

Furthermore SGIN is intended to offer a single point of contact for local and global companies for smart grid related development and testing, as well as provide R&D and demo support and build capacity for developing, sharing and supporting smart grid development. To assist this, SGIN will host workshops and conferences to engage and exchange knowledge among users and potential users of the network, facilitating this fast-paced and fluid innovation smart grid environment.

This press release is available at www.siemens.com/press/PR2016010147EMEN
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