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Austin Energy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Southern Company, TVA Receive Interoperability Leadership Award

PALO ALTO, Calif. (Feb. 16, 2017) – The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) today presented its Interoperability Leadership Award to employees of Austin Energy, the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Southern Company, and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) for their work in testing and deploying products and standards that advance the capability of power system and customer technologies to share and readily use information securely and effectively. Prominent examples include emerging smart grid technologies, demand response programs, distributed energy resources such as rooftop solar, and smart appliances.

The award recognizes the companies’ individual approaches to utility and commercial products, and specifically the application of the [OpenADR 2.0](#) and [CEA-2045](#) modular communication standards, which enable manufacturers’ various technologies to operate with both customer and system specifications, and enable utilities to offer new services. The companies honored also have made effective use of EPRI research and development, tools, and software to allow effective, secure communication between utility systems and customers’ appliances and end-use technologies.

“The concept of interoperability is critical to an Integrated Grid. This award recognizes industry leadership in the development and adoption of technologies that help achieve this goal,” said Mark McGranaghan, vice president of Power Delivery and Utilization at EPRI. “We celebrate the work of Austin Energy, NREL, Southern Company, and TVA for their collaborative effort to deploy open standards and technologies for customer device integration.”

“Now that the cost of putting together a system with communication-ready, residential energy appliances has been lowered, this opens up new opportunities for demand response, integration of renewable energy, end-use load balancing, and new customer services yet to be invented,” said Brian Seal, EPRI senior program manager and research director.

Award recipients: Austin Energy, Scott Jarman; NREL, Bethany Sparn; Southern Company, Justin Hill; TVA, Sam Delay

About EPRI

The Electric Power Research Institute, Inc. (EPRI, www.epri.com) conducts research and development relating to the generation, delivery and use of electricity for the benefit of the public. An independent, nonprofit organization, EPRI brings together its scientists and engineers as well as experts from academia and industry to help address challenges in electricity, including reliability, efficiency, affordability, health, safety and the environment. EPRI’s members represent approximately 90 percent of the electricity generated and delivered in the United States, and international participation extends to more than 30 countries. EPRI’s principal offices and laboratories are located in Palo Alto, Calif.; Charlotte, NC; Knoxville, Tenn.; and Lenox, Mass.

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