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News

Illinois Institute of Technology Seeks Stimulus Money for Collaborative Statewide Smart Grid Effort

Sep 10, 2009   ⊕ SHARE 📧🔖🔗...

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The Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), a leader of a collaborative statewide Smart Grid initiative, has applied for a $60 million Recovery Act regional demonstration project grant to help finance the proposed $120 million project — formally titled the Illinois Smart Grid Collaboration.

The plan is to make Illinois a national center for innovation, validation, deployment and evaluation of new Smart Grid technologies. IIT is leading the effort with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign UIUC), and participants include Illinois state government, the city of Chicago, the Village of Oak Park, the Galvin Electricity Initiative, Commonwealth Edison, Ameren and more than 50 companies.

"This collaboration will help create an electrical grid that is secure and reliable. This investment will create jobs and ensure Illinois families and businesses have access to technology that will lower their energy use, and their energy costs," said Illinois Governor Pat Quinn who, obviously, is a strong supporter of the project. Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley is equally supportive.

The public-private partnership intends to accelerate the adoption and deployment of the Smart Grid both in Illinois and nationally with its community, consumer and market-based plan.

Its four primary components are:
- IIT's Perfect Power System, which is to be a complete, reproducible and scalable demonstration of a reliable Smart Grid that would eliminate blackouts and provide cleaner, more secure energy.
- Oak Park's Community Demonstration, which would incorporate the technological, financial and policy investments communities can make now, including smart metering infrastructure.
- IIT's Smart Grid Demonstration Center, a comprehensive technology development, demonstration and evaluation program for Smart Grid technologies that would allow companies to hook up to an existing Smart Grid and accelerate development of their own technologies and services.
- UIUC's Smart Grid Validation Facility, which would be an incubator, research center and test bed for companies that want to evaluate their Smart Grid technologies in terms of cyber security and interoperability standards before implementation.

Quick Take: Collaboration and cooperation between a variety of public and private entities has quickly gone beyond an emerging trend to become the norm. This particular effort to promote more reliable, secure and inexpensive power should be capable of accelerating widespread implementation of the Smart Grid because it combines the experience of utilities, the backing and support of state and local governments, the research expertise of educational facilities and companies committed to the outcome.
IIT news release
Illinois Government News Network release

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Community Development

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Efficiency & Smart Grid
What role can smart grid play in encouraging energy efficiency and in what ways might current policy fall short of efficiency goals?

Load balancing and peak shaving is great for many reasons, but other than decreasing line loss in some situations, doesn't on its own reduce peoples' consumption.

How can smart meters be implemented to most effectively encourage reduced electricity use and ...

Talk Back right now to Tom GMS