



PRESS RELEASE

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The World's Largest Power Grid Operators Sign up to Common Vision on the "Smart Grid"

The CEOs of the world's 14 largest power grid operators have signed a "Smart Grid" Declaration, committing themselves to a common vision on the importance of smart grids to the transition to a carbon free society.

The Declaration was signed at the latest annual meeting of Very Large Power Grid Operators (VLPGO), held between 30 October and 2 November. The association's 14 members represent more than 70 percent of the electricity demand in the world and provide electricity to 3 billion consumers.

Development of new "smart grid" infrastructure will require significant investment to accommodate both renewable energy sources and smart tools to manage electricity flows. The VLPGO members committed to invest around 700 billions of dollars into power grid development in the next 10 years. This investment must be guaranteed by regulatory authorities in all the countries involved to provide for a long-term, stable and reliable framework.

Dominique Maillard, CEO of Réseau de Transport d'Electricité (RTE, Transmission System Operator of France), was elected as 2012 President of VLPGO. Mr. Maillard assumes the role of president from Luis Atienza Serna, REE Chairman and CEO, who will serve as vice president in the year 2012.

Summarizing the key points of the Declaration, VLPGO President Dominique Maillard said: "Developing smart grid is to build the grid of the future, new articulation between consumers and producers; it is a technical, operational and financial challenge for Power Grid Operators; it will be a vector of greater freedom for all stakeholders".

Very Large Power Grid Operators (VLPGO) brings together the world's 14 largest Power Grid Operators (PGOs, also known as Transmission System Operators - TSOs or Independent System Operators - ISOs). VLPGO was created in 2004 following several blackouts across the world to investigate fundamental issues of common interest to its members and to develop joint action plans addressing the improvement of power system security. In 2009, VLPGO became a formal organization. The VLPGO Members are: KPX (South Korea), MISO (USA), National Grid (United Kingdom), ONS (Brazil), PJM (USA), PGCIL (India), RTE (France), SGCC (China), SO UPS (Russia), TEPCO (Japan), TERNAL (Italy), ESKOM (South Africa), REE (Spain), ELIA Group (Belgium).

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