

PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Nominations Open for 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Smart Grids Award of Excellence**

Today, the International Smart Grid Action Network (ISGAN), in partnership with the Global Smart Grid Federation (GSGF), launched its **second annual Award of Excellence competition** to showcase leadership and innovation in smart grid projects around the world. This year's competition theme is "Excellence in Smart Grids for Renewable Energy Integration," highlighting **the critical role that smart grids can play in accelerating the deployment and use of clean, renewable energy sources** like solar and wind.

Michele de Nigris, Chair of ISGAN's Executive Committee, said, "We are excited to launch the 2015 Award of Excellence competition. Last year's competition was a great success with over 40 high-quality projects nominated from more than a dozen countries. We believe that this year's competition will raise awareness, globally, of the **tremendous value smart grids offer for uptake of renewable energy.**"

"We are proud to join with ISGAN again in recognizing exemplars of the global smart grid community with this prestigious Award," stated Paddy Turnbull, Chair of the GSGF Board of Directors. "The Award of Excellence logo marks the quality of winning projects and **sets the stage for their proven, innovative ideas to be duplicated in other markets.**"

ISGAN and GSGF also announced that Ronnie Belmans, GSGF Executive Director, returns to head the international jury of smart grid experts that will select the winning projects.

The nominations period runs from now to March 20. Winners are expected to be recognized publically at the sixth Clean Energy Ministerial meeting in late May in Mexico. The official rules, nominations forms, and other information on the Award of Excellence competition can be found at <http://www.iea-isgan.org/Award2015/Main>.

**About the International Smart Grid Action Network (ISGAN)**

Launched in 2010 at the first [Clean Energy Ministerial](#), ISGAN brings together more than two dozen governments and affiliated institutions across five continents to accelerate the development and deployment of smarter, cleaner electricity grids worldwide. ISGAN activities support dynamic knowledge sharing, peer-to-peer learning, tool development, and project coordination. ISGAN was formally organized as the Implementing Agreement for a Co-operative Programme on Smart Grids (ISGAN) under a framework of the International Energy Agency.

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More info: [www.iea-isgan.org/](http://www.iea-isgan.org/)

### **About the Global Smart Grid Federation (GSGF)**

The Global Smart Grid Federation (GSGF) is a global stakeholder organization committed to creating smarter, cleaner electrical systems around the world. GSGF is comprised of national smart grid organizations from fifteen countries and the European Union. GSGF brings together the intellectual capital of smart grid stakeholder organizations from around the world to:

- facilitate the collaboration of national and international Smart Grid nongovernmental organizations and governmental organizations from around the world to conduct and foster research in the application of Smart Grid technologies;
- support rapid implementation of Smart Grid technologies by establishing itself as the global center for competency on Smart Grid technologies and policy issues;
- foster the international exchange of ideas and best practices on energy issues, including reliability, efficiency, security, and climate change;
- create avenues for dialogue and cooperation between the public and private sectors in countries around the world on issues relating to the deployment of Smart Grid technologies.

These and other activities help member organizations initiate changes to their countries' electric systems to enhance security, increase flexibility, reduce emissions, and maintain affordability, reliability, and accessibility.

More info: <http://www.globalsmartgridfederation.org/>