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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nominations Open for Fifth Smart Grid Award of Excellence

Honoring Excellence in Smart Grids for Local Integrated Energy Systems (Smart Microgrids)

Today, the International Smart Grid Action Network (ISGAN), in partnership with the Global Smart Grid Federation (GSGF), launched its **fifth Award of Excellence competition** to showcase leadership and innovation in smart grid projects around the world. With a theme of "Excellence in Smart Grids for Local Integrated Energy Systems (Smart Microgrids)," the competition highlights the critical role that modern grid technologies and approaches can play in bringing together a group of interconnected loads and distributed energy resources that can, if needed, operate independently, disconnected from the primary grid on the community level that can highly increase flexibility and security of supply as it can be isolated from any external network in case of broader grid disturbances and blackouts.

Karin Widegren, Chair of ISGAN's Executive Committee, said, "Power systems are getting more complex. As more renewable and distributed energy resources, electric vehicles, smart devices, and other technologies get added to power systems, there is a growing need to ensure that our electric grids can react rapidly and cost-effectively to sudden shifts in power generation and consumption. In this respect, local integrated energy systems, such as smart microgrids are the essence of smart grids and the reason why we are very excited about this year's Award of Excellence competition."

Projects nominated for the ISGAN competition are also eligible to win the GSGF **Best Smartgrid Project Award**.

"This year's competition focuses on a critically important objective for modern power systems," stated Reji Kumar, Chair of the GSGF Board of Directors. "In developing countries in particular, microgrids are cheaper, quicker and easier to roll out than new large-scale power stations with the accompanying transmission and distribution infrastructure which requires a larger capital

outlay, creating a barrier to connecting new users to the grid. In this respect, smart grids are a key tool for enabling the local integrated energy systems, such as smart microgrids"

ISGAN and GSGF encouraged entities engaged in grid modernization or smart grids to submit their projects by **15 November 2018** for consideration for both awards. Official rules, nominations forms, and other information can be found at **http://www.iea-isgan.org/Award2019**. The winning projects will be selected by an international jury of smart grid experts. They will receive prestigious recognition during an awards ceremony at the Tenth Clean Energy Ministerial in Canada in May 2019, a global gathering of energy ministers and high-level international organizations. They will also be showcased in ISGAN and GSGF products and events, affirming their position as global exemplars of excellence.

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. To advance global progress on key aspects of smart grid policy, technology, and standards, ISGAN coordinates a range of activities that support dynamic, international exchange of best practice, peer-to-peer learning, knowledge and tool development, and deep technical engagement. ISGAN is formally organized as the Implementing Agreement for a Co-operative Programme on Smart Grids (ISGAN) and is a member of the International Energy Agency's Energy Technology Network.
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 composed of national smart grid organizations from 15 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; and

- 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. http://www.globalsmartgridfederation.org/