

GO15 President 2019

Mr Fedor Opadchiy

Vice Chairman of the Management Board (SO UPS, Russia)



Dear friends and colleagues!

I'm honored and privileged to address you now as the newly appointed President of our Association.

Established in 2004, GO15 is a unique initiative of the world's largest power grid operators to investigate fundamental issues of common interest and to develop joint actions for improvement and enhancement of power system security.

GO15 President 2019 Message

For over fourteen years since the founding of the Association drastic global changes have forced us to adapt and embrace new roles and responsibilities of the system operators and more generally of our industry. The year 2004 saw the start of GO15 as an opportunity to discuss and develop a survey and consensus on cascading events and blackouts. Today GO15 provides us with a framework to meet challenges that arise from the operation of our power systems with respect to current worldwide trends – digitalization, decentralization and decarbonization. Upon reflection on our past victories it is my honor to state that GO15 initiative has been widely successful and is gaining substantial visibility and recognition. We proceeded one step at a time to establish what is today recognized as a foresight club that helps us all to address jointly the major issues affecting our industry.

As the system transforms and becomes more distributed in nature, the system control has to adapt as well. Many are enthusiastic enough already to try and fully adopt distributed resources, including complementary decentralization. The others embrace security-constrained economic dispatch due to zero marginal costs of renewables. We all look for pace and ways of steering our companies through the challenges that face our industry and differ from country to country. The Russian system is yet to encounter the issue of supporting high renewable penetration. Some regions will most likely reshape their policies in the next two or three years and open up to renewable targets because of the environmental decisions already taken. Still for economic reasons renewable expansion will be relatively small. Key characteristics and planning principles of the Russian system – with unfavorable geography for renewables and reliance upon abundant fossil fuels – give strong reason to believe that thermal generation will continue to dominate in the years to come. Thus, the main challenge most likely will be posed by the aging of generation fleet. However, efficient modernization of conventional generation is undoubtedly of significant importance the world over. The vast majority of power systems still depends on thermal generation for maintaining reliability – until similarly efficient energy storage is available.

As we move forward, I confirm the Presidency’s commitment to continue the GO15 strategic initiative and to excellence the cooperation within the same well-organized framework we’ve developed through the years. I believe that GO15 strategic focus areas will facilitate the adoption of our vision by the industry and build up a broader understanding of the changing role of the system operators.

Also, the process we have established for ICER and our MoU signed with CIGRE illustrate how GO15 can complement effectively the work of other international organizations. Under the leadership of my predecessors, GO15 has been a very strong contributor to this cooperation. As the new president I will honor our current obligations and am looking forward to a constructive dialogue to choose and focus on domains of our mutual interest.

These are just a few thoughts facing the year of my Presidency. While leadership changes are inevitable, I would like to state what has not and will not change – our core values and willpower to guide GO15 in its commitment to the chosen strategy. Our initiatives demonstrate that, by working more closely together, we can help the entire industry. I hold in high esteem a unique framework GO15 offers us to achieve this: sharing information, best practices and deep understanding of the perspectives regarding the mutual challenges we face.

I look forward to continuing our professional dialogue in the future!