



GO15 – CEO Declaration

Major Power Grid Operators address the Challenges of Climate Change

Dubai - November 10, 2015

As governments and societies seek to reduce carbon emissions, electricity grids are experiencing increased participation of renewable (Photovoltaic and wind) and alternative generation sources in their overall power production portfolios. This trend—adding intermittent generation to the grid increases complexity and operational challenges—is expected to continue to be a priority given the impetus of the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP21, to be held in Paris in December 2015.

Leaders of 18 of the largest power grid operators in the world, members of the GO15 association, have been meeting in Dubai to share experiences and direct a program of joint work to assist in the development of the grids of the future. GO15 members are responsible for reliably transmitting two-thirds of the electric power produced to half of the global population.

GO15 members are primary enablers in the integration of renewable and lower-emitting energy sources into their power systems. They continuously adapt the grid and its control systems to facilitate the necessary transition toward the power systems of the future, while maintaining reliable delivery of electricity to consumers. To this end, GO15 members expect more than US\$800 billion of investments would be required to reinforce power grid infrastructure over the next 10 years.

GO15 members reiterate the importance of having regulatory frameworks that incentivize improvement of the overall operations and efficiency of the world's power grids, primary for the benefit of consumers and to ensure the financial viability of the individual grid operators. GO15 members also appeal to governments to allow for more flexibility, in the policy and administration process, during the establishment of the transmission infrastructure essential to transport the energy produced by the new renewable generation, usually installed far from the load centers, and to take full advantage of the regional and international integration of our power grids. Flexibility will aid in quicker turnaround times, as currently transmission construction delays are two to three times longer than those observed for generation plants.

Renewable energy sources are intermittent by nature and require deployment of solutions that compensate for their variability to maintain, in real-time, the balance of supply and demand while ensuring grid stability. Primary means to achieve this include storage solutions (including inter alia, battery and gas solutions) and flexible demand. To this effect, new regulatory frameworks need to be developed to incentivize the deployment of



complex and innovative solutions that combine infrastructure, information technology and two-way communication.

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We, the CEOs of 18 of the largest power grid operators in the world, renew our commitment to build power grids of the future that permit reliable integration of the increasing amounts of renewable energy resources that governments and societies mandate, and to evaluate the benefits of global interconnection. By doing so, we strive to meet the expectations of consumers, who as concerned citizens are also focussed on the preservation of the environment and sustainable societies.

We urge political, economic and financial decision-makers, regulators, the media and the public to recognize that meeting the COP21 objectives will require the reinforcement of power grid infrastructure. This strengthening must be combined with the rapid deployment of innovative technologies enabling the emergence of smart grid solutions designed and implemented for tomorrow's electricity consumers and producers.