



US Department of Energy, GridWise® Alliance Announces Co-Chairs of Second Annual Gridwise Global Forum

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International Line-up of Smart Grid Thought Leaders to Speak

July 19, 2011 - Washington, DC - The GridWise Alliance, the leading coalition advocating for the transformation of the electric system, in partnership with the United States Department of Energy (DOE), today announced that Bob Shapard, Chairman of the GridWise Alliance, and Patricia Hoffman, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE) at DOE, will serve as co-chairs of the second annual GridWise Global Forum, November 8-10, 2011, in Washington, DC.

"It is with great pleasure that I serve alongside Ms. Hoffman as a chair of the GridWise Global Forum," said Bob Shapard. "Access to a reliable and affordable electric supply is critical to this nation's success. Transformation of the electric system can enhance the security and reliability of the energy infrastructure and facilitate recovery from disruptions to the energy supply. Ms. Hoffman has been a national leader on these issues and I look forward to working with her in this capacity."

Shapard and Hoffman will provide opening remarks on the first day of the two and a half day Forum. They will be joined by corporate and governmental leaders as well as energy and consumer experts to discuss best practices and next steps in the transformation of the electric grid in the United State and overseas. Some of the thought leaders confirmed to speak at the Forum include:

- Bob McDonald, Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer, Procter & Gamble
- Michael Niggli, President and Chief Operating Officer, San Diego Gas & Electric
- Susan Story, President and CEO, Southern Company Services
- Beth Comstock, Chief Marketing Officer & SVP, GE
- Kevin Kelly, CEO, Heidrick & Struggles

The second annual Forum will create opportunities for speakers and attendees to learn from one another and work together to achieve a transformed electric grid. Panel sessions will be supplemented by keynote addresses, roundtable discussions and networking receptions leveraging participation from the wider network of business, regulators and academia. The outcome of discussions held during the Forum will provide a world view of best practices, challenges and opportunities and will build on a commitment from the international community to work together to achieve the full potential of a transformed electric grid.

For more information about the GridWise Global Forum and to register to attend this year's much-anticipated event, visit: <http://www.gridwiseglobalforum.org>.

Online registration to attend the Forum is now open. Early Registration runs through July 31, 2011.

Forum events and announcements can also be followed on Twitter at: [@gridwiseforum](https://twitter.com/gridwiseforum).

About The GridWise Alliance:

The GridWise Alliance is the industry-leading coalition advocating for the transformation of the electric system for the public good. Through its diverse membership, the GridWise Alliance promotes the advancement of the electric system through thought leadership, production of white papers and reports, and legislative advocacy. Its 137 members include utilities, technology companies (large and small), telecommunications companies, equipment manufacturers and academia - all of which share a holistic and technology neutral view of the electric system.

For more information about the GridWise Alliance, visit: www.gridwise.org.