



International Smart Grid Action Network

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

2026

Award Competition Official Rules

("Official Rules")

in partnership with



International Smart Grid Action Network

Organized as the Implementing Agreement for a
Co-operative Programme on Smart Grids (ISGAN)

Official Rules for the 12th ISGAN Awards of Excellence

2026

Award Overview

The International Smart Grid Action Network (ISGAN) launched the Awards of Excellence competition (“Competition”) to recognize excellence in smart grid projects, policies and programs around the world. ISGAN brings together 26 countries from across five continents and the European Commission to advance the development and deployment of smarter, cleaner, and more flexible electricity grids worldwide. The ISGAN Awards of Excellence seek to leverage leadership and innovation in smart grids to accelerate the global exchange of best practices and promote the replication or adaptation of proven concepts in other markets, countries, and regions. By showcasing exemplars in the global smart grid community, the ISGAN Awards will promote a shared global understanding of the value that smarter electricity systems can bring, address gaps in related knowledge and tools, and create opportunities for more peer-to-peer learning and engagement. It will also draw attention to the value offered by smart grid systems.

Each round of the competition is organized around a specific theme that reflects priority challenges and innovations supporting the energy transition and the modernization of power grids. The theme for this Awards of Excellence competition in 2026 is “**Excellence in long-term planning of smart distribution grids under uncertainty**”. Projects selected for awards will be formally recognized during a ceremony at the annual Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) and also in ISGAN programs and proceedings. Award Recipients will be granted a limited individual license to advertise and promote the award granted to the project and a limited right to use and refer to the ISGAN Awards of Excellence mark (i.e., the logo) and the phrase “ISGAN Awards of Excellence Winner”, subject to the Official Rules for this Competition and any guidelines published by the Award Administrator (the “Administrator”).

About ISGAN

The International Smart Grid Action Network (ISGAN) was launched at the 2010 Clean Energy Ministerial in Washington, D.C., USA, and formally organized under the Implementing Agreement for a Co-operative Programme on Smart Grids (ISGAN) in 2011 under a framework of the International Energy Agency (IEA). ISGAN's mission is to accelerate progress on key aspects of smart grid policy, technology, and related standards. ISGAN pursues its mission through voluntary participation by governments and affiliated institutions in specific projects and programs. ISGAN's activities support the development of a better global understanding of the value that smarter electricity systems can bring, address gaps in related knowledge and tools, and create opportunities for more peer-to-peer learning and engagement. As part of its mission, ISGAN has established the annual Award of Excellence to recognize excellence in smart grid projects, policies, and programs. More information on ISGAN can be found at www.iea-isgan.org.

About Global Smart Energy Federation (GSEF)

ISGAN is implementing the Award of Excellence competition in partnership with the Global Smart Energy Federation (GSEF). GSEF is a global stakeholder organization committed to creating smarter, cleaner electrical systems around the world and is comprised of national smart grid associations, forward-looking utilities, and think tanks from around the globe working in the energy transition and clean transportation domains. GSEF brings together the intellectual capital of smart energy stakeholders from around the world to help member organizations initiate changes to their countries' energy systems to enhance security, increase flexibility, reduce emissions, maintain affordability, reliability, and accessibility to clean energy, and promote clean transportation. GSEF is registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit Corporation in Washington, D.C., United States of America. More information on GSEF can be found at <http://globalsmartenergy.org/>.

Description of Award Theme

This award recognizes excellence in long-term planning of smart distribution grids, emphasizing the central role of forward-looking planning in enabling secure, sustainable, resilient, and affordable energy systems under conditions of increasing uncertainty.

Distribution grids are the backbone of modern power systems and are critical to achieving global energy transition objectives, including large-scale integration of renewable energy, accelerated electrification, and improvements in energy efficiency. Recent international commitments have underscored that these objectives cannot be achieved without effective long-term planning of low- and medium-voltage distribution networks.

Long-term planning of distribution grids has become more complex as planners and decision-makers face uncertainty related to future demand, electrification pathways,

distributed energy resources, climate-related risks, investment timing, and evolving policy and regulatory frameworks. In this context, “uncertainty” refers to conditions in which key planning assumptions—such as future electricity demand, technology uptake, climate impacts, policy direction, and cost trajectories—cannot be predicted with confidence using a single forecast.

Long-term planning under uncertainty, therefore, emphasizes approaches that explicitly account for multiple plausible futures, assess risks and trade-offs, and enable robust and adaptive decision-making over time. Addressing these uncertainties requires planning approaches that move beyond static assumptions and single-point forecasts, and instead enable systems that can adapt over time while maintaining reliability, affordability, and resilience. It also requires cooperation with multiple stakeholders.

By selecting long-term planning of smart distribution grids as an award theme, ISGAN highlights the importance of planning practices that are forward-looking, adaptive, and robust under uncertainty, and that actively enable the rapid energy transition. Such planning approaches move beyond traditional grid expansion by creating the conditions for integrating a wide range of smart solutions, including flexibility, digitalization, and non-wire alternatives, that cost-effectively leverage existing grid infrastructure.

The award underscores the role of long-term planning in supporting coordinated action, aligning infrastructure development with long-term policy objectives, and providing a stable foundation for investment and implementation. Excellence in long-term planning is fundamental to ensuring that distribution grids are prepared to support the energy systems of the future.

Additional Background on the Award Theme

Applicants who wish to explore the **Award Theme** in more detail may find additional background and examples through **ISGAN’s Lighthouse Project**. These resources are optional but may help understand the broader context of the Award Theme and how an Applicant’s project may contribute to it.

- [ISGAN Knowledge Hub](#): The ISGAN Knowledge Hub provides an overview of concepts related to long-term planning of smart distribution grids under uncertainty, as well as practical frameworks and insights that support this work.
- [ISGAN Policy Brief](#): A dedicated Policy Brief is also available, highlighting why this topic is increasingly important for enabling an efficient, affordable, and resilient energy transition.

Who Should Apply?

This award is open to organizations and consortia that are actively involved in the planning, development, operation, or governance of smart distribution grids and that have demonstrated leadership in long-term planning under uncertainty.

Applicants may include, but are not limited to, the following key actor groups:

- **Distribution System Operators (DSOs) and electric utilities**, including publicly owned, privately owned, or mixed-ownership entities
- **Grid owners**, both public and private, responsible for long-term investment and asset planning
- **Local and regional governments**, including municipalities, regions, and public authorities with responsibilities for energy or infrastructure planning
- **National government agencies or regulatory bodies** with a mandate related to electricity networks or energy system planning
- **Energy sector organizations**, including energy suppliers, aggregators, research agencies and others involved in distribution grid planning
- **Public-private partnerships, consortia, or multi-actor initiatives** involving two or more of the above stakeholder groups

Applications submitted jointly by multiple organizations are encouraged, particularly where long-term planning and implementation involve coordination across institutional or sectoral boundaries.

Eligible Projects

Eligible projects must demonstrate a clear focus on long-term planning of smart distribution grids under uncertainty, showing how they have contributed to improving planning processes that lead to informed real-world decisions, investment priorities, or operational strategies.

Under this condition, eligible projects include:

- **Adaptive or Scenario-Based Distribution Network Planning**
Development of long-term distribution plans using multiple future scenarios that reflect uncertainties in electricity demand, EV adoption, and distributed energy resource (DER) penetration, including systematic stress testing.
- **Distributed Energy Resource (DER) Hosting Capacity and Interconnection Assessment**
Planning-based assessment of hosting capacity and interconnection impacts, enabling systematic integration of distributed resources, energy storage systems (ESS), and demand-side resources.

- **Digitalization of Distribution Network Infrastructure**
Deployment of digital solutions to improve network visibility and data availability, enabling more informed long-term planning, investment prioritization, and risk-aware decision-making.
- **Integrated Non-Wires Alternatives (NWA) Evaluation and Deployment**
Frameworks to evaluate and operationalize non-wires alternatives, such as ESS, demand response, and peak load management, as viable substitutes for conventional network reinforcement.
- **Resilience Enhancement and Climate Risk Mitigation**
Integration of climate risk assessments, extreme weather scenarios, and resilience objectives into long-term planning processes to guide network design, investment priorities, and contingency strategies.
- **Asset Health-Based Optimization and Reinforcement Planning**
Implementation of asset health indices and data-driven methodologies to optimize equipment replacement, refurbishment, and network reinforcement investment schedules.
- **Stakeholder Engagement and Policy Alignment**
Creation of structured engagement mechanisms that enable broad coordination and collaboration among stakeholders across planning, investment, and implementation. This includes co-creating solutions for efficient grid connections and improved grid utilization, while aligning technical, regulatory, and policy frameworks to support effective deployment of smart distribution grid solutions.
- **Cost Efficiency and Tariff Impact Assessment**
Planning methodologies and analytical models used to evaluate long-term capital and operational expenditure pathways, assess cost-effectiveness, and understand the tariff implications of alternative planning decisions.

Also, to be eligible for consideration, projects must meet the following minimum requirements:

- **Operational status:**
The project must have been in operation for a minimum period of 12 months as of February 1, 2026. For planning-focused projects, “in operation” refers to the active and sustained application of planning frameworks, decision-support tools, or planning-related processes within organizational, regulatory, or investment decision-making, and/or within the planning process itself (e.g., improved planning workflows, governance, coordination, or decision cycles), including their use in addressing uncertainty over time.

- **Implementation relevance:**
The project must go beyond conceptual studies or pilot designs and demonstrate that it has been applied in practice to strengthen or improve planning processes and capabilities, resulting in real-world decisions, actions, or operational strategies, and/or demonstrable improvements to planning practices over time.
- **Scope:**
The project must relate to low- and/or medium-voltage distribution grids and address long-term planning for the development and/or operation of smart distribution grids, including planning frameworks, decision-support processes, or integrated planning approaches.
- **Geographic eligibility:** Projects may be implemented at the local, regional, national, or multi-jurisdictional level and may originate from any country or region, provided they contribute to strengthening or improving the planning of distribution grids.

Projects may be submitted at different stages of maturity, provided that they meet the minimum operational requirement and clearly demonstrate the practical application of long-term planning. Any entity or team of entities may apply; however, only one entry per project will be accepted. Accordingly, for projects implemented by a team of entities (e.g., a consortium of companies or a partnership among government, industry, and a utility), a single entity should be designated as the “Submitting Entity,” and the remainder of the team should be listed as “Partner Entities” (collectively, the “Applicant”). Similarly, the Applicant (i.e., the team responsible for the project) should designate a single “Point of Contact” (“POC”) from within the Submitting Entity for communication purposes.

Applications must be supported by evidence to enable the Jury to make a reasoned judgment against the Evaluation Criteria described below. Only projects that were active during or after 2020 will be considered, to ensure that project results are current and relevant. Wherever possible, Applicants are encouraged to quantify project benefits.

Competition Period

Nominations packages (“Submissions”) for the 12th ISGAN Awards of Excellence must be submitted by **23:59 UTC,¹ 13 April 2026**. Only those Submissions that are consistent with the Official Rules will be accepted for consideration.

¹ UTC is Coordinated Universal Time, the standard by which much of the world coordinates clocks and time. It is a more precise measure than the more commonly known Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

How to Apply

The Submitting Entity shall carefully read all related documents, and shall complete the Official Project Submission Form (including any relevant attachments) with the information described under “Content of Submission” below. This document shall be submitted in both Word and PDF formats to the Administrator by email at isgan-awards@smartgrid.or.kr no later than the Submission Deadline. **Please ensure that the email subject line begins with “[ISGAN AoE 2026]”.**

The Administrator will email the POC at the Submitting Entity confirming receipt of the Submission. Optionally, the Submitting Entity may include a Submission: Supplemental Information form or similar materials, such as a PowerPoint presentation, as part of the Submission.

Any questions regarding the Official Rules may be submitted to the Award Administrator by email at isgan-awards@smartgrid.or.kr. Please include the term “[Question]” at the beginning of the e-mail subject line.

Selection of Award Winner(s)

The Administrator will review each Submission to ensure that it meets the minimum requirements described under “Content of Submission” below. The Administrator (and/or its agents) may, at its discretion, contact the Submitting Entity (via the POC) to schedule an online conference call or similar interaction to validate information and claims included in the Submission. Submissions that do not meet the minimum requirements will be rejected. Where a Submission is rejected, the Applicant may revise it to address the identified issues and resubmit it for reconsideration at any time up to the final deadline listed above.

The Administrator will convene a qualified panel of expert judges (the “Jury”), to be assembled by ISGAN in cooperation with the Global Smart Energy Federation. The Jury will receive the qualified Submissions from the Administrator, including any additional information obtained by the Administrator (and/or its agents) via online meetings or other communications with the Submitting Entity. The Jury will individually and collectively review the Submissions, judging them using the Evaluation Criteria described below, to select a winning Submission(s) (“Winning Project(s)”). A Submission’s likelihood of winning will depend primarily on the number and quality of all of the Submissions, as determined by the Jury using the Evaluation Criteria.

The Administrator and/or the Jury may, at their discretion, utilize the Administrator (and/or its agents) to contact the Submitting Entity (via the POC) to clarify information or to obtain additional information as needed for the Jury to make a reasoned judgment on the strength of the project measured against the Evaluation Criteria described below.

Upon the conclusion of its review, the Jury will provide the Administrator with the results, identifying the Winning Project(s).

Each member of the Jury has the right to withdraw without advance notice in the event of circumstances beyond his/her control. Each member of the Jury must notify the Administrator in writing if he/she has any substantial prior knowledge of, or contact or involvement with, any of the Submissions provided to him/her for review and recuse him/herself from the review, evaluation, and discussion in which he/she (A) has a personal or substantial financial interest, or is an employee, officer, director, or agent of any entity that is a Submitting Entity or Partner Entity; or (B) has a familial or financial relationship with an individual who is an employee, officer, director, or agent of any entity that is a Submitting Entity or Partner Entity. The Administrator will work with the Jury to prevent any and all conflicts of interest or the appearance thereof.

Evaluation Criteria

Submissions will be assessed according to the following criteria, which will be equally weighted in the Jury's evaluation.

PRIMARY CRITERIA

- **Planning Excellence under Uncertainty** (25 points) The degree to which the project applies forward-looking and adaptive planning approaches to address uncertainty, including technical, institutional, regulatory, or market-related uncertainties affecting distribution grid development and utilization.
- **Impact on Decisions, Coordination, and Implementation** (25 points)- The extent to which the planning approach has informed or influenced real-world decisions, investments, regulatory actions, or coordination among multiple actors, such as DSOs, regulators, local governments, market actors, and communities.
- **System Value, Affordability, and Efficient Use of Existing Infrastructure** (25 points) - The degree to which the project contributes to cost-effective grid development and utilization, including avoided or deferred reinforcement, improved grid access, enhanced coordination of resources, or long-term affordability and resilience.

SECONDARY CRITERIA

- **Innovation** (15 points) - The degree to which the project introduces innovative planning methods (e.g., tools, models, analytics, or decision-support systems), governance arrangements, coordination mechanisms, or collaborative processes that improve the effectiveness of distribution grid planning under uncertainty.

- **Replicability and Transferability** (10 points) - The degree to which the planning approach, coordination mechanism, or institutional model can be adapted or applied in other regions, regulatory environments, or system contexts.

Content of Submission

Each Submission shall contain the following information using the Official Project Submission Form template available for download at <http://www.iea-isgan.org>:

1. **Title of the project;**
2. **Brief Project Description**, describing the principal objectives, scope, key planning attributes, and key outcomes of the project, as well as how the project relates to the Award theme, *“Excellence in Long-Term Planning of Smart Distribution Grids under Uncertainty.”*
3. **Background and Application of Planning**, describing the context for the project, the planning challenge addressed, and the purpose, approach, and application of the planning process or framework in practice.
4. **Project Outcomes**, describing how the project outcomes demonstrate excellence when measured against the Evaluation Criteria, supported, where possible, by relevant metrics, evidence, or decision outcomes.
5. **Submitting Entity's information**, including organizational name, organizational URL, mailing address, and contact information (mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address) for the designated Point of Contact POC.
6. **Acceptance of Provisions**, either by signing the statement in the Official Project Submission Form template or by including a signed cover letter acknowledging consent to submission of the project and agreement to all the provisions of the Official Rules, and noting that acceptance of the Official Rules is required for the Submission to be considered.
7. **(If applicable) Partner Entity information**, including each Partner Entity's name, organizational website/URL, mailing address, and the contact details (mailing address, phone number, and email address) of its representative Point of Contact. Identify one representative Point of Contact as the Applicant's secondary Point of Contact.
8. **(if applicable) Acceptance of Provisions by Partner Entities**, either by having a representative of each Partner Entity sign the statement in the Official Project Submission Form template or by including a letter from each Partner Entity

delegating its representation to the Submitting Entity.² The inclusion of this letter also signifies acceptance of all provisions in the Official Rules.

The Submission must focus on the substance of how long-term planning approaches for smart distribution grids have been applied in practice to address uncertainty and inform real-world decisions, investments, or operational strategies. The project detailed in the Submission must have been actively applied after 2020. Only one Submission per project is permitted.

As noted above, the project described in the Submission must explain how long-term planning processes have influenced the development, utilization, or management of distribution grids and include demonstrable results supported by evidence, enabling the Jury to make a reasoned judgment against the Evaluation Criteria. In preparing the Official Project Submission Form, Applicants may consider the aspects discussed below as optional supplemental information.

English must be used to provide all required information in the Official Project Submission Form.

To support the claims and assertions in the Official Project Submission Form, the applicants shall submit objective evidence of project implementation and the outcomes achieved or expected. Please use the Supplemental Form for photos, videos, presentation slides, news articles, reference documents, and URL links and/or written supplemental.

The Supplemental Information form is available at <http://www.iea-isgan.org>. If the file sizes are large, please submit them as separate attachments, and ensure that the file names begin with “Appendix 1”, “Appendix 2”, “Appendix 3”, and so on.

Attachments and linked materials (e.g., URLs or websites) may be in a language other than English; however, a summary of such materials in English is required for them to be considered. All written explanations in the Supplemental Information Form must be provided in English.

Topics that Applicants might address in the required Official Project Submission Form and any attachments, URL links, or written supplemental information include the following:

A. Background

- a) Describe the experience/history that affects design and planning;
- b) Describe the rationale for embarking on the project;

² A single letter identifying all the Participating Entities and having co-signature of representatives of each of the Participating Entities is acceptable.

- c) Describe the principal desired changes from past/current practices;
- d) Describe the necessary features, constraints, and requirements associated with design and planning;
- e) Provide the most important/critical factors that shape the project; and,
- f) Describe the role of stakeholders (i.e., persons, groups, or organizations with an interest, real or potential, in the project) in the development of the planning approach.

B. Purpose

- a) Describe the key outcomes desired for the overall project;
- b) Describe the key functionalities demonstrated successfully;
- c) Describe the success metrics (i.e., how you will determine whether the project has been successful).

C. Approach

- a) Describe the approach to implementation of the project;
- b) Describe the activities undertaken in the project to improve the planning process (e.g., improvements to scenario development, analysis, and decision-support processes, or other activities performed within the actual planning process);
- c) Describe the methods, tools (if applicable), and metrics used to characterize, evaluate, and manage uncertainty, and explain how these informed planning decisions and subsequent actions. Where applicable, describe any evidence or indicators that the project has improved the long-term planning process (e.g., decision quality, robustness, timeliness, coordination, or cost/risk outcomes); and
- d) Describe the schedule associated with key activities/tasks.

D. Project Conduct and Outcomes

- a) Describe how the project was applied in practice to improve the planning process (e.g., what went as expected, what did not, and what was unexpected);
- b) Describe the known outcomes at the time of Submission, as measured against the metrics identified in Section C(c);
- c) Describe the projected, future outcomes and impacts, as measured against the metrics identified in Section C(c);
- d) Describe stakeholder responses, uptake, or engagement outcomes; and

- e) Provide additional project information, using project attributes relevant to the Competition theme (e.g., scale, timeframe, governance setting, system context).

Where possible, provide factual evidence for claims and assertions regarding relevant project information (or make such evidence accessible via citations, independent references, or URLs for web access).

As noted above, the Administrator and/or the Jury may, at their discretion, utilize the Administrator (and/or its agents) to contact the Submitting Entity (via the POC) to clarify information provided in the Official Project Submission Form or the supplemental information or to obtain additional information as needed for the Jury to make a reasoned judgment on the strength of the project measured against the Evaluation Criteria.

Award Use and Restrictions

Applicant and Winner acknowledge that the ISGAN Awards of Excellence mark and all other intellectual property regarding the Competition (collectively the “ISGAN IP”, including associated “Branding Materials”) are owned by the Administrator. In this context, “Award Recipient” includes all members identified on a Submission selected as a Winner, Runner-up, or Honorable Mention in the Competition. Applicant and Award Recipient agree not to challenge or seek to register any intellectual property associated with the Competition. Each Award Recipient will be granted a limited individual license to the ISGAN IP to advertise and promote the award granted to the project, which was submitted for review, from the date of the award. All use of the ISGAN IP must comply with the guidelines published by the Administrator, as updated and posted on the ISGAN website (<https://iea-iscan.org>) and as attached to these Official Rules and incorporated by reference. Award Recipients agree not to use the ISGAN IP or make any mention of winning an award in a manner inconsistent with these guidelines and to immediately cease any such use upon notice by the Administrator. Award Recipients may only promote that the award pertains to the specific project that was the subject of the award and may not state or imply that the award applies to any other projects in which the Submitting Entity (or team members thereof, e.g. “Partner Entities”) participates. Award Recipients may not use the ISGAN IP to state or imply that the Administrator or any other entity or person associated with the Competition endorses or is affiliated with the Award Recipient or any other projects in which the Award Recipients have participated.

Award Ceremony and Publicity

The Award Recipients will be formally announced during an official ceremony at **the Seventeenth Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM17, which will take place from 11 to 13 October 2026 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia)**. The exact date of the award ceremony will be confirmed at a later stage and will be scheduled within the CEM17 program. Successful applicants will be notified individually by email no later than two months prior to CEM17. Applicants are requested to submit their Submissions with the understanding that Award

Recipients are expected to be represented in person at the award ceremony, where feasible. ISGAN reserves the right to change the date and location of the award ceremony as circumstances require.

Any use of the ISGAN Awards of Excellence mark (i.e., the award logo) will be accompanied by the name of the project for which the award was received, as an integral part of the image, unless otherwise authorized in writing in advance by the Administrator. Utilization of Branding Materials is subject to other provisions in the Official Rules.

Except where and as may be prohibited by law, participation in the Competition constitutes express permission of an Applicant for the Administrator (and those acting pursuant to the authority of the Administrator) to use each Applicant's name and the fact-of-application for the Competition in advertising, trade, and publicity purposed for the ISGAN program and the Competition in all forms of media now known or hereafter discovered or devised, worldwide, in perpetuity, without further notice, review or approval, or compensation.

General Conditions

By participating in the Competition, each Applicant fully and unconditionally agrees to and accepts these Official Rules and the decisions of the Administrator, which are final and binding in all respects. By participating in the Competition, each Applicant waives any right to claim ambiguity in these Official Rules. An Applicant is not a Winner until it has fully complied with these Official Rules and been formally notified by the Administrator that it has been selected as a Winner. The Administrator reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to cancel, terminate, modify, extend or suspend the Competition (in whole or in part) should unauthorized intervention, fraud, or other causes corrupt or affect the administration, security, fairness, or proper conduct of the Competition. In such a case, the Administrator may grant awards from all eligible applications received for the Competition prior to and/or after (if appropriate) the action taken by the Administrator or via some other means determined by the Administrator in its sole and absolute discretion to be fair, appropriate and consistent with these Official Rules. The Administrator reserves the right to disqualify any Applicant it determines, in its sole and absolute discretion, is or is attempting or intending to:

- (a) tamper with any aspect of the operation of the Competition,
- (b) defraud the Competition,
- (c) undermine the legitimate operation of the Competition by cheating, deception, or other unfair practices,
- (d) annoy, abuse, threaten, or harass any other participants, the Administrator, any representatives of ISGAN, or any Participant of ISGAN, or

(e) act in violation of these Official Rules.

In such an event, the Administrator reserves the right (in addition to disqualification of such Applicant) to seek damages from any such Applicant to the fullest extent permitted by law. The Administrator's failure to enforce any provision of these Official Rules shall not constitute a waiver of that provision. Any entity that enters the Competition through means not permitted by these Official Rules is subject to disqualification. The Administrator is not required to respond to questions about the Competition.

General Release and Waiver of Claims

By entering this Competition, each Applicant hereby releases the Administrator, ISGAN, its participants and all of their respective parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, advertising agencies, and all of their respective directors, officers, governors, employees, shareholders, and agents (collectively, the "Releasees") from:

- (a) any and all liability, loss, harm, damage, cost, expense, or claims, including third-party claims based on publicity and/or privacy rights, defamation, and intellectual property associated with the Applicant or Winner's participation in this Competition, and any award associated with this Competition, and/or use or misuse of any award in connection with the Competition, including, but not limited to, all reasonable counsel fees and court costs incurred
- (b) anything related to the Competition or the administration of this Competition (including participation therein), including preemption, cancellation, or rescheduling; and
- (c) anything that may occur in connection with acceptance and/or use of the award or while participating in the Competition, even if caused or contributed to by the negligence of the Releasees.

Limitation and Liability

Neither the Administrator nor any other Releasee is responsible for lost, late, incomplete, stolen, misdirected, illegible, erroneous or incomplete applications. Neither the Administrator, nor any other Releasee is responsible for any incorrect information, whether caused by an Applicant tampering, or by any of the equipment or programming associated with or utilized in the Competition, and neither the Administrator nor any Releasee assumes responsibility for any error, omission, defect, theft, destruction, or unauthorized access to the materials related to the Competition, or for any damage to any computer related to, or resulting from, participating in the Competition. No responsibility is assumed by the Administrator for lost, mutilated, incomplete, illegible, stolen, misdirected, erroneous or delayed entries or e-mail; or for any computer, telephone, cable, satellite, network, electronic or online/Internet hardware or software malfunctions, failures, connections, or availability, or garbled or jumbled transmissions,

or service provider/Internet/website use, accessibility or availability, or traffic congestion, or unauthorized human intervention, other errors of any kind, including without limitation, testing results, whether human, mechanical, electronic or network, or the incorrect or inaccurate capture of entry or other information or the failure to capture, or loss of, any such information. Any use of the robotic, macro, automatic, programmed or like entry methods will void all such entries by such methods. No responsibility is assumed by the Administrator for any incorrect or inaccurate information, whether caused by Applicants, website users, testing or evaluating individuals or organizations, tampering hacking, product testing or by any of the equipment or programming associated with or utilized in the Competition; and none of the Releasees assume any responsibility for any error, omission, interruption, deletion, defect or delay in the operation of the Competition. IN NO EVENT WILL THE ADMINISTRATOR OR ANY RELEASEE BE RESPONSIBLE OR LIABLE FOR ANY INJURIES, CLAIMS, ACTIONS, DAMAGES, LOSSES, OR LIABILITY OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING DIRECT, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, OR PUNITIVE DAMAGES RESULTING FROM OR ARISING FROM PARTICIPATION IN, OR THE PRODUCTION, COMPETITION, OR ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMPETITION, OR ACCEPTANCE, POSSESSION, USE, MISUSE, OR NONUSE OF AN AWARD. WITHOUT LIMITING THE FOREGOING, ALL AWARDS ARE PROVIDED "AS IS" WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EITHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, OR NON-INFRINGEMENT. ANY ATTEMPT BY AN APPLICANT OR ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION TO DELIBERATELY UNDERMINE THE LEGITIMATE OPERATION OF THE CONTEST IS A VIOLATION OF CRIMINAL AND CIVIL LAWS, AND SHOULD ANY SUCH ATTEMPT BE MADE, THE ADMINISTRATOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO SEEK DAMAGES FROM ANY SUCH PERSON OR ENTITY TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW.

Choice of Law

All Republic of Korea national, provincial and local laws and regulations apply to the Competition, regardless of the nationality or origin of the Applicant. Applicant agrees that:

- (a) any and all disputes, claims, and causes of action arising out of or connected with this Competition, or any award, or the determination of the Winners, shall be resolved individually, without resort to any form of class action;
- (b) any and all claims, judgments, and awards shall be limited to actual out-of-pocket costs incurred, including costs associated with entering this Competition but in no event attorney's fees.

All Applicants acknowledge and agree that the Competition shall be administered solely and exclusively in the Republic of Korea, and that all issues and questions concerning the construction, validity, interpretation, and enforceability of these Official Rules, or the rights and obligations of Applicant and/or Administrator in connection with the

Competition, shall be governed by, and construed solely and exclusively in accordance with, the laws of the Republic of Korea, without regard to conflicts of law/choice of law doctrine or any other jurisdiction, and all proceedings shall exclusively take place in the courts of the Republic of Korea. Applicant agrees to the exclusive jurisdiction of such court and waives any right to change of venue or any like right.

Copy of Official Rules

The Official Rules can be found on the ISGAN website during the Competition Period at <https://iea-isgan.org>

Copy of Winning Project's List

For a list of the previous Winning Projects, visit the ISGAN website at <https://iea-isgan.org/about-the-isgan-awards>

Administrator: Korea Smart Grid Institute (KSGI), Korea Power Exchange (KPX)

Email: isgan-awards@smartgrid.or.kr

Appendix 1 – Glossary of Terms

Appendix 2 – Guidelines for Use of Intellectual Property

Appendix 1

International Smart Grid Action Network

Award of Excellence

Glossary of Terms

Administrator (also called Award Administrator or the ISGAN Award Administrator)– The Korea Smart Grid Institute, in its role as co-Secretariat for the Implementing Agreement for a Co-operative Programme on Smart Grids (ISGAN).

Applicant – The Submitting Entity and Partner Entities, considered collectively.

Attribute – An important feature of successful smart grid projects

Attribute Class – A collection of project attributes having a common organizing principle

Branding Materials –Generally, visual imagery and public relations descriptions and phrases; specifically as referenced in Appendix 2 Guidelines for Use of Intellectual Property

Competition – The process associated with the submittal, review and award of the ISGAN Awards of Excellence, as specifically employed in Appendix 2, Guidelines for Use of Intellectual Property

Demonstration-level project – A project whose intent is to establish confidence in the viability and merit of deployment of a new technology, system, product or service at a scale relevant for wide-scale adoption.

Deployment-level project – A project that embodies all the features and functionality for broad dissemination without further scale-up or adaptation.

Flexibility – In general, Flexibility in a power grid refers to its capacity to efficiently adapt to fluctuations in electricity supply and demand, ensuring grid stability and reliability while optimizing costs. Note that the specific definition of flexibility can vary by country, electricity market, organization or other entity or jurisdiction.

GSEF – Global Smart Energy Federation

IEA – International Energy Agency

IP – Intellectual Property, specifically as identified in Appendix 2 Guidelines for Use of Intellectual Property

ISGAN – the Implementing Agreement for a Co-operative Programme on Smart Grids (ISGAN), more commonly known as the International Smart Grid Action Network

ISGAN Operating Agent (or Operating Agent) – The entity, organization, or individual empowered to act for and on behalf of the Participants in the Implementing Agreement for a Co-operative Programme on Smart Grids (ISGAN), currently the Austrian Institute of Technology.

Jury – A qualified expert review panel convened to evaluate the Submissions according to the criteria listed in the Official Rules and, from this evaluation, to select one or more of said Submissions as winners of the ISGAN Awards of Excellence.

Participating Entity – An organization, company or individual that was a principal contributor to the project being submitted for the ISGAN Awards of Excellence. There may be multiple Participating Entities included in any one Submission. All Participating Entities, by their acknowledgement in the Submission, accept all provisions in the Official Rules.

Partner Entity – a Participating Entity that is not the Submitting Entity, as identified in the Submission.

Phrase – “ISGAN Awards of Excellence Winner”, as specifically referenced in Appendix 2, Guidelines for Use of Intellectual Property.

Pilot-level project – A project whose intent is to explore the operational effectiveness, viability and merit of a new technology, system, product or service, at a scale that, if successful enables direct scale-up to configurations appropriate for broad deployment.

POC – Point of Contact – The designated representative of the Submitting Entity, including all contact information.

Rules (or Official Rules) - The rules and requirements applicable to the ISGAN Awards of Excellence Competition, including these Official Rules, all appendices, and any supplementary guidelines or instructions issued by the Administrator.

Smart Grid – In general, a modernized electrical grid that uses analogue or digital information and communications technology, sensors, and control systems to gather and act on information, such as information about the behaviours of suppliers and consumers, in an automated fashion to improve the efficiency, reliability, economics, and sustainability of the production and distribution of electricity. Note that the specific definition of a smart grid can vary by country, electricity market, or another jurisdiction.

Submission – The collective information submitted for review as a candidate to win the ISGAN Awards of Excellence (also referred to as the nomination or the nominations package). This must include the Official Project Submission Form for the Submission to be considered.

Submitting Entity – The organization, company, or individual that is serving as the principal agent in representing an Applicant and Submission for the ISGAN Awards of Excellence, including all Participating Entities listed on the submittal. If the Submitting Entity is not a Participating Entity, it must identify such in the Submission.

UTC – Coordinated Universal Time

Award Recipient – Any Participating Entity identified on a Submission selected by the Jury as a **Winner (First Prize), Runner-up (Second Prize), or Honorable Mention (Third Prize)** in the Competition and granted a **limited, non-exclusive, non-transferable license** to use the ISGAN intellectual property solely to advertise and promote the award granted to the specific awarded project, in accordance with the Official Rules and Branding Guidelines, **from the date of the award**.

Awarded Project – The project corresponding to a Submission selected by the Jury, following evaluation according to the criteria in the Official Rules, for receipt of the ISGAN Awards of Excellence.

Appendix 2

International Smart Grid Action Network Guidelines for Use of Intellectual Property

(1) Use of ISGAN Marks and References to the Competition.

Subject to the Official Rules for the ISGAN Awards of Excellence Awards Competition (the "Competition"), and using the same capitalized terms as used in the Official Rules unless indicated herein to the contrary, pursuant to these policies and guidelines ("Guidelines"), each Award Recipient shall have a non-exclusive, non-transferable, restricted, revocable, limited right to use and refer to the phrase **"ISGAN Awards of Excellence – Winner," "ISGAN Awards of Excellence – Runner-up,"** or **"ISGAN Awards of Excellence – Honorable Mention"** (each, a "Phrase"), solely in a factual manner and solely in connection with materials or activities specifically related to the awarded project (the "Awarded Project"), provided that such use:

- (a) has been previously reviewed and approved by the Award Administrator in the first instance; and
- (b) must comply with the Guidelines at all times.

Once the use of the Phrase and ISGAN name in materials or activities has been approved by the Award Administrator, subsequent materials or activities that do not alter or modify the use of the Phrase or ISGAN name need not be submitted for approval. Except upon the prior written consent of the Award Administrator in each instance, the Phrase and ISGAN name must only be used in association with the Awarded Projects as submitted in the Competition. For the avoidance of doubt, the Phrase and ISGAN name may not be used in any way or for any purposes whatsoever in connection or association with other non-Awarded projects that may be considered alternatives or derivatives of the Awarded Projects.

Any use or reference of the Phrase or to the ISGAN name beyond use in a reference (including, but not limited to, advertising, marketing, packaging, or promotional materials) shall require the Award Recipient to:

- (a) obtain written permission from the Award Administrator prior to its use or distribution, including where such approval is contingent on strict adherence to the Guidelines.
- (b) maintain the quality controls and abide by the minimum standards of quality control provided in the Guidelines; and
- (c) execute such further documents, assignments, agreements, and instruments and take any further acts as the Award Administrator may deem necessary and reasonably request in order to effectuate these terms.

ISGAN retains all rights, including intellectual property rights, associated with the Phrase (and any variants) and the ISGAN name and reserves the right to monitor and/or police the use of the Phrase or any other reference to ISGAN names, marks or trademarks, including without limitation, on any Winning Project or other materials associated with the Winning Project.

It is understood that the Guidelines may be updated and/or modified periodically in ISGAN's sole discretion, and Applicant agrees to accept and be bound by any updates and/or modifications. Applicant further agrees to abide by the use or reference of the Phrase or any other ISGAN-owned names or marks in a manner expressly consistent with the minimum standard of quality controls specified and as updated and/or modified in the Official Rules and Guidelines.

(2) Intellectual Property and Publicity Rights.

The Operating Agent for the Implementing Agreement for a Co-operative Programme on Smart Grids (ISGAN) ("ISGAN Operating Agent") is the owner of the service mark/trademark ISGAN. Applicant acknowledges the ISGAN Operating Agent's exclusive right, title and interest in and to the ISGAN name and will not, at any time, do or cause to be done any act or thing contesting or impairing such rights, titles and interests. Applicant further acknowledges that the sole right granted to a Winner under these Guidelines and the Official Rules is to use the Phrase solely and specifically in connection with those materials or activities associated with the Winning Project and that are previously approved by the ISGAN Award Administrator (in consultation with ISGAN Operating Agent) as a result of winning the Competition, and for no other purpose whatsoever. Any and all goodwill that arises from Applicant's use of the Phrase will inure to the sole benefit of ISGAN.

Applicant agrees not to challenge, oppose, petition to cancel or otherwise attack the validity of the ISGAN name or trademark and/or the ISGAN Operating Agent's ownership thereof. Applicant acknowledges that Applicant has no right, title or interest in the Phrase or the ISGAN name and that nothing in these Guidelines or the Official Rules shall be construed as an assignment of any right, title or interest in the Phrase or the ISGAN name, except the limited right to use and refer to the Phrase as provided in this agreement and under these Guidelines.

Applicant acknowledges and agrees that the ISGAN Operating Agent has complete authority to control use of the ISGAN name or marks. Applicant shall use the Phrase in strict compliance with the provisions of the Official Rules and conformity with the Guidelines, as amended from time to time. Should Applicant fail to comply with the Guidelines as outlined in the Appendix, or fail to maintain proper quality controls and/or act, behave and/or do anything to negatively impact the goodwill and/or the ISGAN name,

the ISGAN Operating Agent shall have the right in its sole discretion to terminate the rights granted under these Official Rules or Guidelines at any time.

Applicant acknowledges and agrees that the ISGAN Operating Agent shall have the sole right and discretion to determine whether any action should be taken to terminate unauthorized use of the Phrase or the ISGAN name or settle any proceeding brought by the ISGAN Operating Agent to terminate such unauthorized use. All proceeds from any enforcement action shall belong exclusively to the ISGAN Operating Agent.

By participating in this Competition, Applicant agrees and hereby grants the ISGAN Operating Agent permission to use statements, quotes, testimonials, photographs, designs, models, and/or any other material(s) provided by Applicant as part of the Competition entry, as well as Applicant's name, photograph, likeness, and, if applicable, the name of eligible Applicant's company and affiliation, for advertising, and/or promotional purposes, consistent with the ISGAN mission, without any additional compensation to eligible Applicant unless prohibited by law. Applicant retains ownership of the Projects' intellectual property rights in the Competition entry, subject to ISGAN's rights to reprint, display, reproduce, perform and exhibit the Competition entry for advertising and/or promotional purposes. By participating in this Competition, Applicant agrees that any materials generated by ISGAN, its agent, or those acting at the direction of the agent in reviewing and accessing the Projects are the sole property of the ISGAN Operating Agent.