EMerge Alliance Forms New Campus Microgrid Technical Standards Committee

Intel leading the charge to connect multiple DC microgrids throughout commercial buildings; others invited to join effort

SAN RAMON, CALIF. (May 17, 2012) – The EMerge Alliance – an open industry association leading the rapid adoption of safe direct-current (DC) power distribution standards for commercial buildings – today announced the formation of a new Campus Microgrid Technical Standards Committee at the American Institute of Architects (AIA) 2012 National Convention and Design Exposition.

Chaired by Guy AlLee, of Intel's Energy Research and Sustainability Labs, the new committee will focus on establishing a standard for the integration of DC microgrids throughout a building or campus. The standard will focus on improved efficiency of integrated on-site power generation, storage, distribution and use by capitalizing on the utilization of native DC power. With input from member organizations, the new Campus Microgrid standard will integrate the other EMerge Alliance standards that enable the use of DC power at various levels and in a variety of spaces. The resulting set of standards will further advance the Alliance's mission to help building designers and owners achieve greater flexibility, sustainability and savings.

"To better facilitate the creation of net-zero energy buildings, the Alliance has issued a 'call-to-action' to its members and others to join in the development of this important new DC microgrid standard," said AlLee. "An essential part of this process is connecting the dots to ensure that the individual microgrids within a campus or building can connect seamlessly with each other, with on-site generation and storage, and with the utility macrogrid, thus creating an integrated power system that maximizes the efficiency gained from the direct use of native DC power."

According to EMerge Alliance Chairman Brian Patterson, the Alliance has been working toward a vision of DC microgrids in four key areas – occupied spaces, data and telecommunications centers, building services and outdoor applications – since the organization was founded in 2008.

"The success of our first power distribution standard for the occupied space and the upcoming release of a similar standard for data and telecommunications centers has prompted the Alliance's Governing Board to move forward with the standards development process," said Patterson. "The formation of this new technical standards committee is yet another important step toward the interconnection of these and all future power distribution microgrids within a building or campus."

The Campus Microgrid Technical Standards Committee is open to all Alliance members at the Governing and Participating levels, and will include consideration of power, infrastructure, peripheral device and control applications required to operate a building using DC power. The group is inviting other innovative organizations in the commercial building industry to join and contribute to this groundbreaking standards development effort.

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Conference and exposition attendees at AIA 2012 in Washington, D.C., May 17-19, can learn more about this effort and other recent developments in DC power from EMerge Alliance leaders and members, who will be attending and exhibiting at the following booth locations:

- EMerge Alliance – Booth 3320
- Armstrong World Industries – Booth 3842
- Cooper Lighting – Booth 552
- Crestron Electronics, Inc. – Booth 3325
- Delta Products Corp. – Booth 1917
- EMerge Alliance – Booth 3320
- Philips – Booth 1631
- Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. – Booth 1821

About the EMerge Alliance
The EMerge Alliance is an open industry association leading the rapid adoption of safe DC power distribution in commercial buildings through the development of EMerge Alliance standards. These innovative standards integrate interior infrastructures, power, controls and devices in a common microgrid platform to facilitate the hybrid use of AC and DC power throughout buildings for unprecedented design and space flexibility, greater energy efficiency and improved sustainability. The nonprofit Alliance is accepting new members at various levels. For more information, please visit www.EMergeAlliance.org.

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