

### SmartGrid Policy:

#### Defining The Importance Of Automation For The Successful Implementation Of SmartGrid

**Issue:** Our nation's current electric power grid infrastructure is one that over the years has felt the pressure of demand as well as the complexity of delivering power in an efficient manner at a reasonable cost to the consumer. The security of our power delivery infrastructure is also a challenge that must be addressed. There is growing consensus among the new Administration, Congress, state legislatures, business leaders, and other stakeholders that the time for action has come to address our nations aging power grid infrastructure with the introduction of SmartGrid. SmartGrid will provide the technologies, tools, and techniques to make our current power grid infrastructure work in a more efficient manner and to be able to handle our nation's energy demands for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Introducing SmartGrid to the electric power grid infrastructure will:

- Ensure the reliability of the grid to levels never thought possible
- Maintain the affordability for energy consumers
- Reestablish our global competitiveness
- Accommodate renewable and traditional energy resources
- Reduce our carbon footprint
- Allow for the advancements and efficiencies yet to be envisioned

**Automation Federation Role:** The Automation Federation is stepping forward as the "Voice of Automation" to define the importance of the automation professional in making SmartGrid work. The Automation Federation is an umbrella organization made up of partner organizations representing over 40,000 automation professionals in all fields of automation including manufacturing as well as power generation, transmission, and distribution. The Automation Federation has the ability to channel the knowledge, expertise, and credibility of these automation professionals as the educated resource necessary to address the complexity of developing and maintaining SmartGrid. The Automation Federation encompasses experts in the fields of industrial automation and control systems cyber security, industrial wireless sensors, and systems interoperability who can provide the expertise necessary for helping ensure the protection and efficient operation of the electric grid. This includes the critical aspects of developing unbiased industry standards, assisting industry in applying the standards, and certifying compliance to the standards.

**Next step:** The Automation Federation will be seeking the support from the Members of Congress, Governors, State Legislatures, and State and Federal Regulatory Agencies to ensure that the expertise the Automation Federation brings to the table for the successful implementation of SmartGrid will be utilized.

For further information on this important issue please contact:

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