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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EPRI AND U-SNAP ALLIANCE ESTABLISH LIAISON AGREEMENT IN EFFORT TO STANDARDIZE THE INTERFACE FOR SMART APPLIANCES

Denver, CO. (November 17, 2009) – The U-SNAP Alliance and the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) today announced at Grid-Interop 2009 an agreement that will allow the sharing of EPRI research and U-SNAP specifications in an effort to identify a standard communication interface for smart appliances.

Both organizations believe that it is in the public's best interest to have a standard physical interface that allows smart appliances and consumer products to accept a variety of user-installable communication devices. Such an interface should provide manufacturers a way to avoid obsolescence from new communication technologies, and utilities with multiple options for communicating with customer devices.

EPRI is conducting a study to identify the uses and requirements for an appliance interface. The U-SNAP Alliance has defined a low cost physical interface currently used in consumer products, such as thermostats, that is suitable for use in smart appliances as well.

“Achieving the full potential of a Smart Grid requires the ability to communicate with many household appliances.” said Brian Seal, senior project manager, in EPRI's Power Delivery & Utilization sector. “This will enable consumers to manage their utility bills by operating their appliances when the price of energy is low. The U-SNAP specification will be an interesting consideration of our study and any outcome will need vibrant user organizations like U-SNAP to carry the work forward.”

The agreement will enable EPRI to evaluate the U-SNAP specification during the course of the study and will allow the U-SNAP Alliance access to the project discussion and findings.

“As an active proponent of standards, EPRI facilitated development of the initial National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Smart Grid Roadmap report,” said Jon Rappaport, chairman of the U-SNAP Alliance. “Collaborating with EPRI will give us another means through which to identify industry needs as we continue to refine the U-SNAP interface for demand response and energy management applications.”

About EPRI

The Electric Power Research Institute, Inc. (EPRI, www.epri.com) conducts research and development relating to the generation, delivery and use of electricity for the benefit of the public. An independent, nonprofit organization, EPRI brings together its scientists and engineers as well as experts from academia and industry to help address challenges in electricity, including reliability, efficiency, health, safety and the environment. EPRI's members represent more than 90 percent of the electricity generated and delivered in the United States, and international participation extends to 40 countries. EPRI's principal offices and laboratories are located in Palo Alto, Calif.; Charlotte, N.C.; Knoxville, Tenn.; and Lenox, Mass.

About U-SNAP Alliance

The U-SNAP Alliance is an open industry association developing an industry specification for connecting energy aware consumer products with smart meters. The Alliance will create and publish a specification, establish testing and certification procedures for product conformance and educate consumers, utilities and vendors on the benefits of the standard. Alliance membership is comprised of utilities, manufacturers, consultants and other parties interested in developing or deploying the standard. For more information, or to find out how to join the Alliance, please visit www.usnap.org.

For more information contact:

Don Kintner
Manager, Communications
EPRI
704-595-2506
dkintner@epri.com

Barry Haaser
U-SNAP Alliance
408 833 6241
barry@usnap.org