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## ISO/RTO Task Force Creates Standards for Next Generation of Grid and Market Operation Software Tools

April 9, 2007 - A task force formed last year by a group of American and Canadian bulk power system operators has completed the first phase in creating standards for grid and market operation software systems – an architectural blueprint for how the industry's software applications should be developed and integrated.

The Enterprise Architecture Standardization (EAS) task force consists of representatives from the Independent System Operators (ISOs) and Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs), including the California Independent System Operator, Independent Electricity System Operator of Ontario, ISO New England Inc., the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator, the New York Independent System Operator, PJM Interconnection, and Southwest Power Pool.

The ISO/RTO Council, made up of top ISO/RTOs executives, charged the task force with eliminating some of the structural differences in the numerous software applications used in the wholesale electric power industry, first by developing a common, overarching software application architecture and then by creating standards for specific applications.

"We've made an important first step in moving the industry towards a more flexible and cost-effective software architecture," said Gordon van Welie, President and CEO of ISO New England and chair of the ISO/RTO Council. "ISOs and RTOs should see shorter project implementation timelines and lower software integration costs as these standards become incorporated in our systems."

ISO/RTOs use complex computer software applications to run their wholesale electricity markets and bulk power system operations. While many of the applications used by ISO/RTOs are based on similar software solutions, variations in market designs and historically different development paths have led to major discrepancies in software architecture. These differences often force ISO/RTOs to incur high customization costs when integrating other ISO/RTO applications into their own systems or integrating software purchased from different vendors.

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