CEOs of World’s Largest Power Grids Call for Greater Focus on Reliability and Grid Resilience

(New York, N.Y. – Nov. 11, 2013) – Leaders of 16 of the largest power grid operators in the world, responsible for providing electricity to more than 3.4 billion people, are calling for more grid infrastructure investment across the globe. The CEOs are part of GO15, a group that met in New York for its annual meeting to focus on industry trends and what is needed to provide more resilient grids and greater electricity reliability across the globe.

Together, the CEOs stated that the current rate of change in the electricity industry is unprecedented and presents emerging challenges. The challenges are driven by the transition to lower emissions generation and a changing fuel mix, as well as changes in technology, economic factors and consumer behavior. The challenges require power grids to upgrade grid infrastructure, and to expand interconnections between power systems. Investment is also needed to develop the information technology systems and “smart” IT systems required for the monitoring and control of power flows under increasingly complex operational conditions.

"All of the world’s grids share a similar problem," said GO15 President Terry Boston. Boston is also CEO and president of PJM Interconnection, the largest grid operator in North America. "We all face reliability and operational challenges in a rapidly changing industry. The specifics of those challenges may differ from nation to nation, such as how best to connect renewable generation that is often far from population centers, the retirement of conventional power plants and the rapid growth of electricity use in emerging economies," Boston added.

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"Sharing how each of us approaches these challenges helps all of us manage them more effectively."

The world’s grids all face reliability and operational challenges in connecting and integrating new generation sources and renewable generation (such as photovoltaic, geothermal and wind), which is often intermittent and located far from load centers. These challenges can be compounded with the retirement of conventional power plants.


Dr. Hermes Chipp will serve as president of GO15 in 2014. Chipp is also general director of ONS, the Brazilian national grid operator.

**GO15 is a voluntary association of 16 of the largest power grid operators in the world, responsible for bringing reliable power to over 3.4 billion people. Our key objective is to develop, maintain and operate reliable, safe and cost-efficient power grids to meet customer needs.**

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