

The Smart Grid of the Future needs Standards to be set now

"IP-based standards are the only way to provide the integrated and robust infrastructure necessary to support the Smart Grid of the future," says Jorge Blasco of powerline chipset manufacturer DS2

Barack Obama's stimulus package reserved \$4.5bn (£2.7bn) for Smart Grid spending. The much hyped Smart Grid of the future will provide reliability, stability and practicality but there are issues involved in its development that need resolving before this Smart Grid technology can become robust enough to support expected demand.

Jorge Blasco, CEO at DS2, explains: "One of the main problems facing vendors and industry organisations today is what technologies and standards should be used as the foundation for the future Smart Grid, and, as you might expect, everyone is pushing their own - often incompatible - view. For example, each communication technology often comes with its own management protocol so if a utility uses three or four different communications technologies for its Smart Grid, it may end up with three or four different management systems that don't talk to each other. If the Smart Grid is to become a reality there needs to be a single interoperability standard and in DS2's view it should become an IP-based Smart Grid."

Why? Because today, millions of people connect to the Internet using a large variety of PHY/MAC technologies including Ethernet, Wi-Fi, powerline, DSL, cable-modem, 3G cell phones and many more. One of the solutions to the problem of managing systems based on incompatible technologies is an IP-based standard. It has been tried and tested and has proved that it can provide a common communication protocol for disparate PHY/MAC technologies.

"An IP-based Smart Grid would enable every Smart Meter, every Smart appliance and every distributed sensor to have its own IP address, which will ultimately enable remote management. By using this type of management system, utilities can deploy completely different PHY/MAC communication systems in different parts of their grid, and still control them with a unified management system," concluded Jorge Blasco.

If you would like to know more about the concept of an IP-based Smart Grid or DS2's Smart Grid developments, please do let me know as I'd be more than happy to set up a call with an Executive at DS2.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

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