

ABB and Energy Utilities Form Consortium to Fund SCADA/EMS Cyber Security Assessment at National SCADA Test Bed

Twelve utilities have formed a consortium with ABB, a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system vendor, to privately fund advanced research and testing through the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National SCADA Test Bed (NSTB), announced a recent article in the journal *Transmission & Distribution World*.

The utilities, located in the United States and Australia, will fund SCADA system assessments at NSTB testing facilities at Idaho National Laboratory. The consortium began taking shape last fall at an ABB User Group meeting, where ABB and some of its energy management system (EMS) customers asked other ABB system users to join in on continued efforts to assess and harden ABB's SCADA/EMS products, the journal reported.

In 2003, ABB became the first SCADA/EMS vendor to test one of its products, called Network Manager 2003, at NSTB. The newly formed consortium will fund testing of the latest assessment targets for the ABB SCADA/EMS product, NMR3, and ensure that all previously discovered vulnerabilities have been mitigated. The assessment will be completed this year, according to the article.

Utilities making up the consortium include: Austin Energy, Detroit Edison, Indianapolis Power & Light Company, ITC Transmission, Kansas City Power & Light (KCP&L), LCRA, the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO), Snowy Hydro Ltd., and Tri-State G&T Association.

Stephen Diebold, manager of real-time systems at KCP&L and the consortium chairman, said in the article, "Funding by multiple utilities makes this critically important research affordable for all of us."

Read the article in *Transmission & Distribution World* at http://www.tdworld.com/distribution_management_systems/utilities_partner_fund_scada/index.html.

Learn more about the DOE NSTB at <http://www.oe.energy.gov/nstb.htm>.