

Letter of Intent

Co-operation between the United States Department of Energy and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission on Electric Vehicle - Smart Grid Interoperability Centres

For over ten years, the United States and the European Union have sought to expand scientific collaboration across the Atlantic through their Science and Technology Agreement. Signed in 1997, this Agreement serves as a broad framework for cooperation, enabling some of our most distinguished scientists and best research institutions to collaborate on a wide range of scientific topics and initiate new joint programs. The Agreement encourages cooperation in areas where the United States and the European Union (EU) are doing some of the most advanced research in the world on energy and transport technology.

Following consultations between William Kennard, U.S. Ambassador to the EU, and Dominique Ristori, Director-General of Joint Research Centre (JRC), and exploratory missions of U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) representatives to the JRC Ispra facilities, and of JRC personnel to DOE's Argonne National Laboratory, the JRC and DOE seek to cooperate on e-mobility, focusing on electric vehicle interoperability with charging and smart grid equipment, as follows:

- Establish two Electric Vehicle / Smart Grid Interoperability Centres, one at Argonne National Laboratory in the United States and one at JRC-Ispra in Italy.
- Such interoperability centres could:
 - Establish state-of-the-art facilities for development and testing of vehicle-grid interface technologies – encompassing connectivity between electric vehicles, charging equipment, communication networks, electric transmission and distribution grid operators, and electricity service providers;
 - Play an active role in standardization; supporting data-driven standards refinement and development, a common approach between the U.S. and EU testing of relevant electric vehicle and smart grid equipment, all in an effort to promote cooperative development of and support for global standards;
 - Undertake projects to enhance the interoperability of electric vehicles, recharging systems, and smart grids through, among other things, the development of more harmonized standards for connectivity, communication, and component compatibility;

- Participate with the EV/SG Interoperability testing facilities for electric vehicles and supply equipment in inter-laboratory comparisons through "round robin" testing;
- Establish a small DOE-JRC task force to prepare a work plan for these interoperability centres outlining common goals and final targets.

We believe that there is a great potential for cooperation between our two organisations that can yield great benefits for the advancement of evidence-based policy, as well as for economic growth and job creation in the transatlantic context.

This letter of intent is not intended to create any legal obligations, and its implementation is subject to the availability of funds, personnel, and other resources.

For the U.S. Department of Energy:



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For the European Commission:



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