Pennsylvania State University

GridSTAR Center: Smart Grid Training and Application Resource Center

Project Description
The GridSTAR Center will provide education and training of a workforce needed to design, construct, and operate a reliable, secure, economical, energy efficient, and safe Smart Grid. Operations will begin at University Park and will include two satellite locations: the Philadelphia Navy Yard and the Pittsburgh Green Innovators facility at the former Pittsburgh Public Vocational-Technical High School. The GridSTAR Center is coordinating with a diverse team of utility, energy management, manufacturing, and training partners to provide systems-based continuing education and train-the-trainer programs in advanced power systems design, energy economics, cyber security, distributed energy generation, and building-vehicle-grid systems.

Goals/Objectives
• Form a network of industry leaders to identify Smart Grid workforce development needs
• Support the alignment of workforce demand with existing training infrastructure utilizing two GridSTAR center hubs
• Implement workforce development programs in partnership with utilities, community colleges, universities, unions, and various industry sectors
• Assess placement and economic impact metrics to refine programs and disseminate results

Benefits
• Job retention and employee growth
• Workforce trained in technical and professional skills that can provide leadership in transforming existing power systems to a Smart Grid
• Active industrial participation in energy systems education
• Highly skilled, electric power workforce trained in cutting-edge Smart Grid technologies

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PARTNERS

PROJECT DURATION
04/01/2010–04/03/2013

COST
Total Project Value
$10,000,000

DOE/Non-DOE Share
$5,000,000/$5,000,000

Project Location
Pennsylvania

Managed by the National Energy Technology Laboratory for the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability

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