



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

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Electricity Delivery  
& Energy Reliability

American Recovery and  
Reinvestment Act of 2009

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## **Automated Demand Response Benefits California Utilities and Commercial & Industrial Customers**

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Smart Grid Investment Grant  
Program Recipient Deliverable

 **SMARTGRID.GOV**  
RECOVERY ACT SMART GRID PROGRAMS

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## 1. Summary

Honeywell's Smart Grid Investment Grant (SGIG) project demonstrates utility-scale performance of a hardware/software platform for automated demand response (ADR). This project stands apart from the other SGIG projects in that it focused both on the development of an ADR hardware/software platform to facilitate demand response and on recruiting and educating ADR customers to participate in energy saving programs sponsored by utilities. The project uniquely targeted larger commercial, industrial, and institutional customers (with an average demand of 200 kilowatts [kW] or more) rather than residential customers.

*Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the U.S. Department of Energy and the electricity industry have jointly invested over \$7.9 billion in 99 cost-shared Smart Grid Investment Grant projects to modernize the electric grid, strengthen cybersecurity, improve interoperability, and collect an*

Honeywell partnered with three California utilities—Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), San Diego Gas and Electric Company (SDG&E), and Southern California Edison (SCE)—to help target customers and make the project a success. Honeywell developed the ADR system to help participating customers automatically respond to utility notifications of demand response events, curtail demand of pre-selected equipment, and save money from lower off-peak rates and utility incentive payments.

Once installed at the customer site, the Honeywell ADR system communicates with the customer's own energy management system (EMS) to implement equipment curtailments, which the customer pre-selects based on their own priorities. Customers typically choose to curtail non-essential lighting and elevator banks, and equipment such as pumps, motors, compressors, and refrigeration systems, whose operations can be delayed without significant losses.

Honeywell found that customers often were not aware of their utility's demand response programs or the magnitude of potential cost savings. Many also did not yet have the EMS capabilities to automate curtailment of specific equipment in response to the utility's demand response notifications. This project helped demonstrate the benefits of new demand response capabilities that can support wider adoption once ADR technologies become more cost-effective. Table 1 is a summary of the key results.

**Table 1. Summary of Key Results**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Energy Savings,<br/>Demand<br/>Reductions, and<br/>Financial Benefits</b> | i. Savings were substantial for participating customers. One food distributor <b>reduced its monthly electricity bills from \$50,000 to \$35,000</b> and its monthly power consumption by 25%.<br>ii. A manufacturing facility in Torrance, California received <b>more than \$75,000 in bill credits</b> for its participation in 11 demand response events in 2012 and 2013. |
| <b>Customer<br/>Interest and<br/>Suitability</b>                             | iii. Honeywell enrolled 61 customers, involving 282 sites, with control of more than <b>49 megawatts of curtailable electricity demand</b> .<br>iv. <b>Water districts</b> that operate large pumping stations and have flexibility to shift demand from on- to off-peak periods, <b>are well-suited for ADR</b> and were found to be among the most ideal customers.          |
| <b>Lessons Learned<br/>and Future Plans</b>                                  | v. Honeywell <b>reduced the cost of the ADR gateway by 50% but further reductions are needed</b> to improve cost-effectiveness and enable wider adoption.<br>vi. Because each customer has unique characteristics, <b>customization is a major cost driver</b> . Efforts are needed to standardize systems and implementation requirements.                                    |

## 2. Introduction

Honeywell is a Fortune 100 company that develops and manufactures a wide range of technologies and tools, and provides supplemental services for clean energy generation and energy efficiency. For its SGIG project, Honeywell developed an ADR system targeted for large electricity customers (greater than 200 kilowatts of connected load) to facilitate their participation in demand response markets in California. Honeywell worked with PG&E, SDG&E, and SCE in California to implement the project. Figure 1 shows a map of Honeywell's ADR installations in California.

Demand response is an important tool for improving the delivery of electricity because it reduces demand during peak periods and helps grid operators keep demand and supply in balance. Peak demand is a major cost driver for the delivery of electricity as it requires utilities to build power plants that may be used for only 10% of the time, or less. Peak demand reductions reduce electricity costs and improve utilization of grid assets such as power lines, substations, and power plants.



Honeywell's ADR system, which is powered by a Demand Response Automation Server (DRAS), involves commercially available technologies customized for customers so they can implement their own load control strategies in response to notification or price signals from their utility. The system is designed to interface with and augment the customer's energy management systems. ADR components include hardware and software for obtaining price signals and notifications from utilities

through an ADR gateway. They also include systems for monitoring and controlling building and factory loads such as lighting, heating, cooling, air handling, motors, and refrigeration.

Honeywell's approach to ADR involves working with local utilities to recruit commercial and industrial customers to participate, conducting audits to advise customers on load control strategies, and installing and commissioning the systems.

Figure 2 shows the ADR's step-by-step process. Utilities start by sending out notification signals for upcoming critical peak events. This signal is received and processed by the demand response automation server (DRAS), which then signals a controller located on the customer's premise connected to the onsite EMS. The system uses OpenADR, an open, industry-standard communication protocol, to pass messages between the DRAS, controller and EMS.

Once a signal is received, the EMS uses a priority list of pre-selected curtailments that were identified by the participants in accordance with their own needs. Typical curtailments include non-essential lighting and elevator banks, and certain equipment such as pumps, motors, compressors, and refrigeration systems, whose operations can be delayed without noticeable disruption.

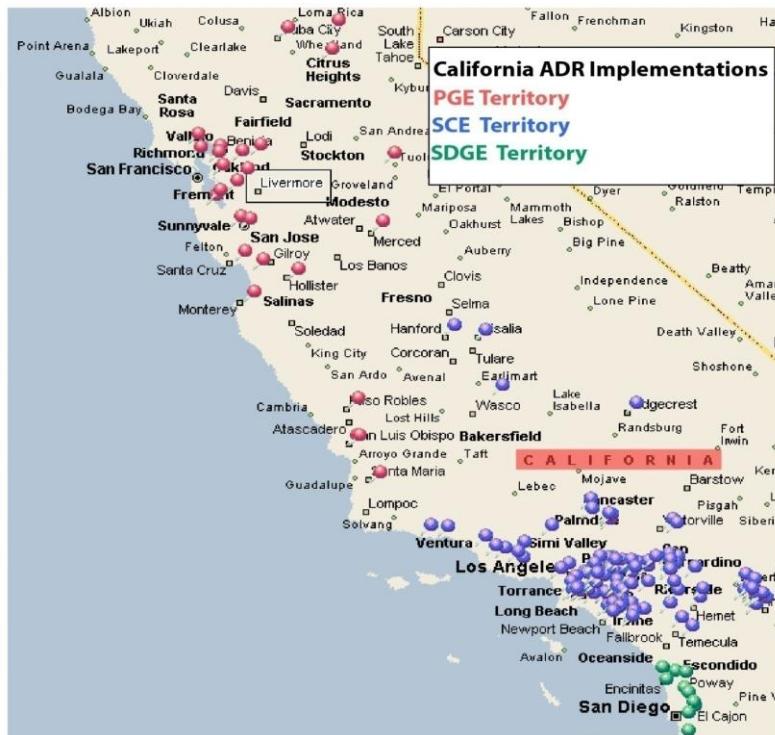


Figure 1. Map of Honeywell ADR installations in California.

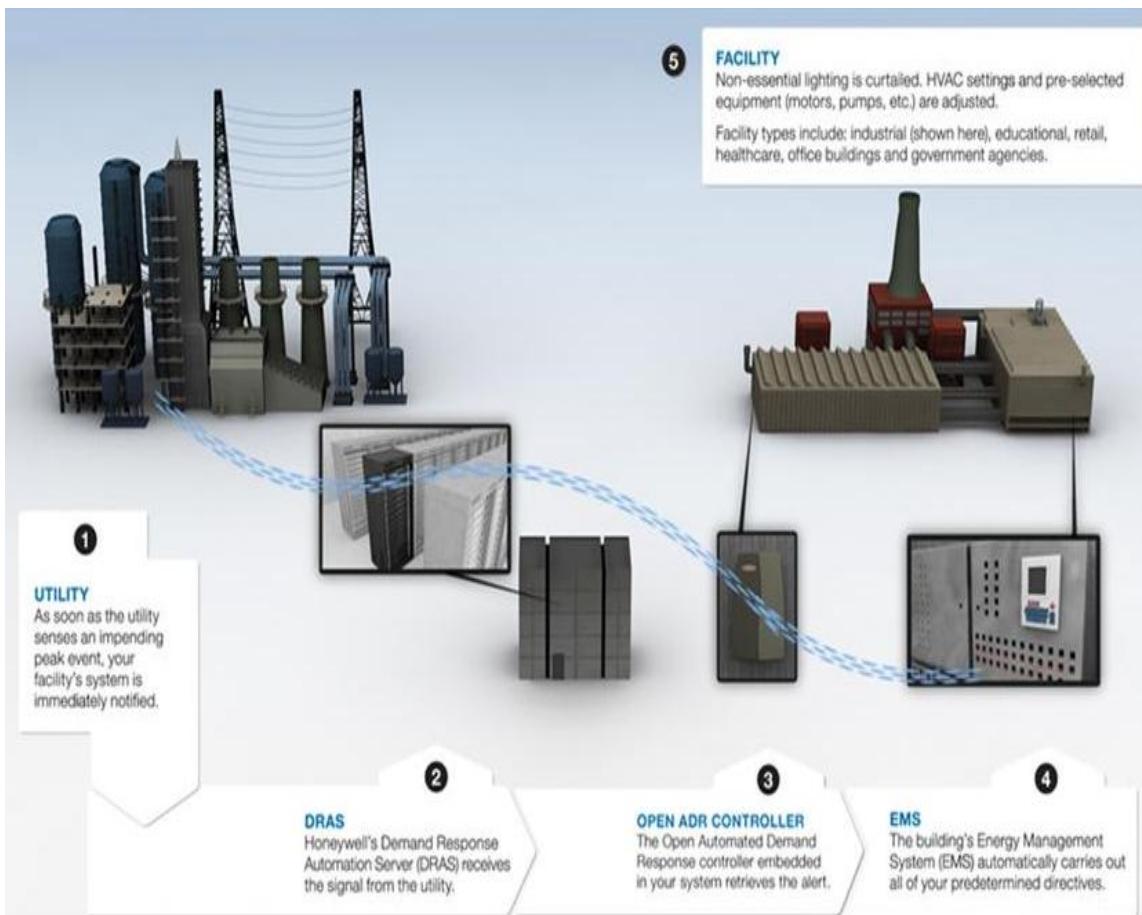


Figure 2. Overview of Honeywell's ADR system.

Honeywell found that many customers did not have an EMS or an EMS with connected loads. In these instances, Honeywell helped customize the EMS software to enable more flexible and effective responses to load management signals from the utilities. For example, for Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL), a participating customer with 155 buildings, Honeywell added an air handler control feature that can be adjusted by JPL to achieve 10% to 50% curtailment during demand response events.

### 3. Energy Savings, Demand Reductions, and Financial Benefits

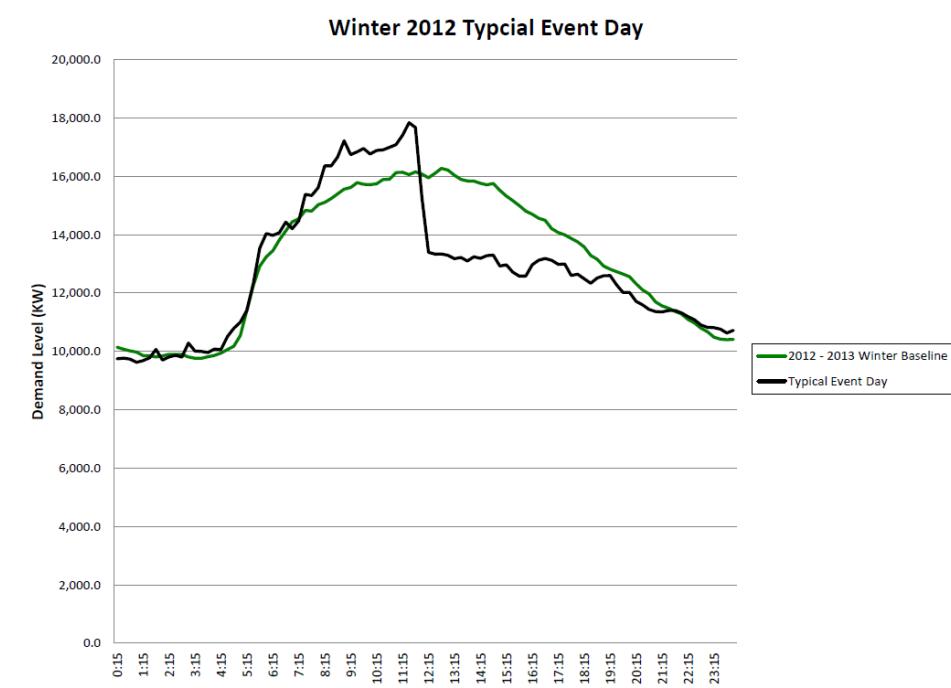
The energy savings, demand reductions, and financial benefits from Honeywell's ADR system depends on a variety of customer-specific factors including curtailment strategies, the amount of load customers choose to place under control, and the time-based rate or incentive program in which they participate. The basic methodology to determine energy savings involves comparing customer consumption levels during critical peak events with baseline levels. The mechanics of calculating baselines and energy and load impacts vary by program.



Honeywell found that many customers were not aware of demand response programs and the associated benefits and costs. For example, customers did not know the benefits of participating in time-based rate programs, the steps needed to curtail demand, and other financial benefits such as incentive payments, lower rates during off-peak periods, and lower bills. Many customers also did not know that electricity production and delivery costs fluctuate during the day and that by reducing demand during the most costly times of the day, they could reduce the utility's electricity costs.

Honeywell's ADR project was successful in helping customers reduce their electricity costs. Coastal Pacific Foods Distributors (CPFD) was able to reduce its monthly energy bills from \$50,000 to \$35,000 and cut its electricity usage by more than 25%. During events, CPFD can curtail demand by more than 110 kilowatts. At the same time, the EMS provides CPFD with the ability to act in a more efficient manner by controlling air temperature and lighting during non-event days. Honeywell's facility in Torrance, California, also participated in the program, and has received more than \$75,000 in bill credits for its participation in 11 demand response events in 2012 and 2013.

The Honeywell ADR system also proved effective in reducing peak demand. Figure 3 shows electricity consumption curves aggregated across a group of participating customers for an average critical peak event day in the winter of 2012. The figure shows the amount of demand curtailment realized from the use of Honeywell's ADR system compared to the winter baseline.



**Figure 3. Customer Electricity Demand Curves from Winter, 2012.**



## 4. Customer Interest and Acceptance

Honeywell targeted commercial and industrial customers whose average loads exceed 200 kW. As shown in Table 2, Honeywell currently has 61 unique customers and a total of 282 sites. The total amount of curtailable load is 49.8 MW.

With SGIG funding and utility financial incentives, Honeywell was able to provide its ADR system at low to no cost for most customers. SCE and PG&E, for example, co-financed deployment by paying \$300 and \$200 respectively per kilowatt of curtailable load. Honeywell's implementation costs, as of the second quarter of 2014, were about \$400 per kilowatt of curtailable load. SGIG funds made up the \$100-\$200 difference in costs between the \$200-\$300 of utility incentives and Honeywell's costs of \$400. The majority of the costs were for EMS upgrades. Honeywell is researching a number of different technologies that could further reduce implementation costs.

**Table 2. Numbers and Types of Participating Customers in ADR in California.\***

| Customer Type | Number of Customers | Number of Sites | Total MW    |
|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Commercial    | 14                  | 23              | 2.6         |
| Education     | 1                   | 1               | 0.6         |
| Industrial    | 35                  | 39              | 26.4        |
| Municipal     | 9                   | 102             | 17.5        |
| Retail        | 2                   | 117             | 2.7         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>61</b>           | <b>282</b>      | <b>49.8</b> |

\*As of August 6, 2014

Customers can use the Honeywell ADR system to improve their everyday energy efficiency, not only on days when peak events are called. For instance, customers can elect to curtail non-essential equipment on non-event days to save energy and money. Customers can also choose their own energy savings and curtailment strategies by selecting from two levels of participation: high- or medium-level. They can also opt-out of events.

Honeywell found that most customers have developed their own energy management priorities and strategies. For example, many commercial customers value heating and cooling highly and are not interested in total curtailments. However, they are willing to change set-points, turn-off some chillers, and change air handler speeds. Figure 4 is a photo of the ADR selection screen at a customer's site.



Water districts frequently participate in demand response events and work with third-party, load aggregators to participate in financially attractive capacity bidding programs. Water districts can manage their water supplies and turn off pumps for up to two hours during peak periods, without affecting operations and services. Honeywell found water districts to be among the most attractive candidates for ADR.

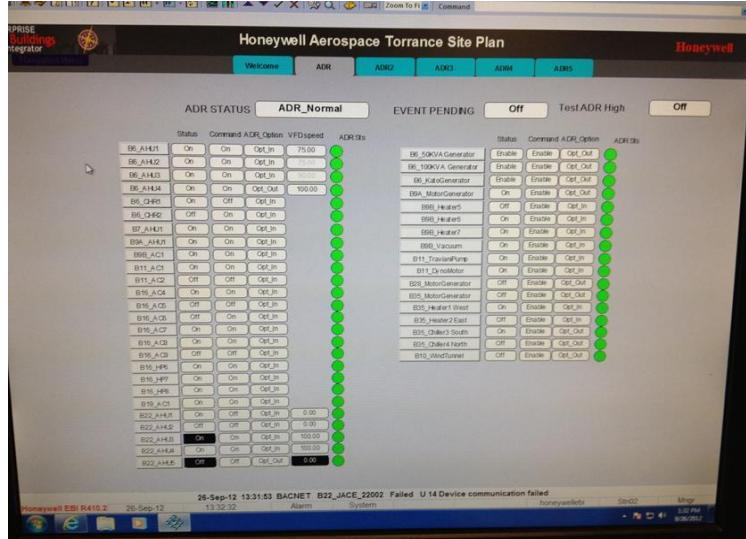


Figure 4. ADR selection screen.

## 5. Lessons Learned

During the recruitment phase, Honeywell found that ideal customers fall into two categories: (1) customers whose operations make it possible for them to curtail demand without affecting performance, and (2) customers whose systems are easy to automate for demand response. Water districts are considered among the most ideal because they can change water pumping schedules and curtail demand without significant disruptions in services. Certain commercial customers and retailers that already have energy management systems can be integrated into ADR, but they may have limited ability to curtail demand because building occupants cannot easily dim lights or reduce heating or cooling without affecting their businesses.

Manufacturing and industrial customers present some unique challenges for ADR, because they often face complex decisions about trade-offs in productivity and performance in exchange for demand curtailment incentives. For example, one manufacturer is on a real-time pricing rate and rates can increase significantly when temperatures exceed 95°F. Before the ADR equipment was installed, this customer would have to curtail all demand when temperatures went over 95°F, basically shutting down operations, to save money on the rate. As a result, Honeywell customized the EMS to automatically show the tradeoff between production profits and electricity costs so the customer could make real-time decisions about whether and how much to curtail demand. As a result of using Honeywell's ADR system, this customer can now optimize their operations over the course of the day.



About 10% of the targeted customers had an operating EMS that controlled connected equipment. For the 90% without EMS, Honeywell incurred the cost and installed one. For some of the customers who had EMS, Honeywell found they needed to install system upgrades to include equipment not connected to the EMS that the customer controlled using wireless remote control equipment. While Honeywell was able to expand participation by helping customers with EMS, this step caused significant increases in Honeywell's costs.

## 6. Future Plans

Honeywell's future plans include activities aimed at lowering system development and implementation costs. Going forward, the company plans to focus marketing efforts on the most attractive customers for ADR systems, including water pumping facilities, big box retailers, and large manufacturing plants. Honeywell also plans to find new ways to lower hardware and software costs. As part of the SGIG project, Honeywell was able to reduce the cost of the ADR gateway (Figure 5) by 50%, and believe savings can be achieved for other system components as well.

Honeywell would also like to expand capabilities to make the system attractive to a broader array of customers. For example, based on its SGIG project experience, Honeywell recognized the potential to develop real-time feedback for performance monitoring. This led to the development of the new OpenADR 2.0b protocol.

Most of the benefits of Honeywell's SGIG project were realized by the three utilities and all of the participating customers. However, without DOE funding to make up the difference between Honeywell's costs and the incentive payments from the utilities, they would not have been able to participate. Reducing system costs are a top priority for future ADR development.



Figure 5. Honeywell's ADR Controller.



## 7. Where to Find More Information

To learn more about national efforts to modernize the electric grid, visit the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability's [website](#) and [www.smartgrid.gov](http://www.smartgrid.gov). DOE has published several reports that contain findings on topics similar to those addressed in Honeywell's SGIG project and this case study. Web links to these reports are listed in Table 3.

| Table 3. Web Links to Related DOE Recovery Act Reports and Case Studies |  |
|---|--|
| SGIG Program and Progress Reports                                       | i. <a href="#">Progress Report II, October 2013</a><br>ii. <a href="#">Progress Report I, October 2012</a><br>iii. <a href="#">SGIG Case Studies</a>   |
| SGIG Consumer Behavior Studies  | iv. <a href="#">SGIG CBS Project Descriptions, and Interim and Final Evaluation Reports</a><br>v. <a href="#">Analysis of Customer Enrollment Patterns in Time-Based Rate Programs – Initial Results from the SGIG Consumer Behavior Studies, July 2013</a><br>vi. <a href="#">SGIG Consumer Behavior Study Analysis: Summary of the Utility Studies, June 2013</a><br>vii. <a href="#">Quantifying the Impacts of Time-Based Rates, Enabling Technologies, and other Treatments in Consumer Behavior Studies: Guidelines and Protocols, July 2013</a><br>viii. <a href="#">Lessons Learned from SGIG CBS Projects</a> |
| Other Recent Publications   | ix. <a href="#">Smart Meter Investments Yield Positive Results in Maine, January 2014</a><br>x. <a href="#">Smart Meter Investments Benefit Rural Customers in Three Southern States, March 2014</a><br>xi. <a href="#">Control Center and Data Management Improvements Modernize Bulk Power Operations in Georgia, August 2014</a><br>xii. <a href="#">Using Smart Grid Technologies to Modernize Distribution Infrastructure in New York, August 2014</a>  |