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Gunther's role in SGIP changing along with group's structure

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Smart grid standards expert Erich Gunther and EnerNex, the firm of which he is CTO, after Dec 31 may have no formal role in the Smart Grid Interoperability Panel (SGIP), a US standards-vetting body, Gunther told us Friday. EnerNex and Gunther nearly one year ago won a \$3 million contract to serve as SGIP's administrator (SGT, [Sep-21](#)). At that time, Gunther declined to state the contract's length.

"EnerNex has no funded role in SGIP/SGIP 2.0 post Dec 31," and Gunther lacks an executive position within the new organization, he said Friday. "Our funding is completely up Dec 31. We have a moderate level of funding from Sept 15 through Dec 31 to finish up our duties as administrators."

It is possible, Gunther continued, that SGIP – now in the process of re-forming as SGIP 2.0 – might bid for services that EnerNex could provide. "But we have not seen an RFP yet for that," he said.

Gunther himself "of course will monitor what is going on" within SGIP 2.0, he said. Until now he has served as an ex-officio board member – a position that will be eliminated in SGIP 2.0.

He will continue serving on other standards bodies, as chairman of the GridWise Architecture Council, chairman of the Utility Communication Architecture International Users Group, chairman of the IEEE Intelligent Grid Coordinating Committee, board member of the IEEE PES Governing Board and member of the UTC Smart Networks Council, he said.

Stuart McCafferty, SGIP's long-time program manager, "will be even less involved than me" in SGIP 2.0, Gunther said. "He will be moving on to manage other projects."

Five other technically oriented EnerNex employees who have been active in SGIP will halt their work for the organization Sept 14.

Gunther for several years has been among the leading standards experts in the US, working closely with NIST standards chief George Arnold since before SGIP was officially founded, in November 2009 (SGT, [2009-Nov-17](#)). He won an award from GridWeek in October 2010 for outstanding leadership in advancing the smart grid (SGT, [2010-Oct-19](#)). *Smart Grid Today* last year interviewed Gunther and Arnold for a comprehensive review of the state of smart grid standards (SGT, [2011-Feb-24](#)).

The SGIP for months has been working on changing its structure to become an industry-financed legal entity rather than the federally funded organization created in 2009 – and as it does so, it will lock out non-paying members and offer graduated levels of service and access depending on membership type (SGT, [Jun-21](#)). It has named that legal entity SGIP 2.0. The new body is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt membership organization. Paul Molitor is overseeing the transition to SGIP 2.0 from SGIP.

Interim SGIP 2.0 officers include John McDonald, president; George Bjelovuk, secretary; John Caskey (pending final approval) and Andy Updegrave, assistant secretaries; Scott Ungerer, treasurer.

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