



## IEC 61850 Interoperability Testing & Boot Camp

### Call for IOP Participation

Planning will soon begin for the UCA International Users Group (UCAIUG) IEC 61850 Interoperability (IOP) Tests in October 2017. This IOP testing event provides a unique opportunity to test IEC 61850 equipment and applications; to observe testing and vendor product interaction; and to provide feedback so that products and standards are improved. The IOP does not focus on passing tests, but rather on learning from failed tests. It is through analysis of the failures that standards, implementations, and the overall industry can improve. Additionally, the IOP offers the opportunity to solve interoperability problems before they occur and to progress the concerns of your company.

Consequently, the UCAIUG is seeking companies and individuals that would like to participate. If you are interested, the following are two (2) options for registration:

- **PARTICIPATING COMPANY:** If your company provides IEC 61850 equipment or applications and would like to test those products against other vendor products, then the IOP test is the collaborative environment in which to achieve this objective.

**BENEFITS:** Product improvement, customer collaboration, conformance retesting prevention, and test results marketing.

- **WITNESS:** For those who want hands-on experience with multi-vendor interoperability but are not a vendor or vendor representative. For utilities, the IOP test provides an inexpensive mechanism to get directly acquainted with IEC 61850.

**BENEFITS:** Peer discussion, learning and collaboration; UCAIUG Certificate of Participation; in-depth knowledge of state of products and market; acquisition of skills required for specifying and witnessing FATs/SATs.

### Logistics

The IOP test will take place in New Orleans in October 2017. It will be hosted by Entergy. The Boot Camp training will be October 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Vendor setup for the IOP will be October 14<sup>th</sup>. IOP testing will take place October 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. The issues discovered at the IOP will be addressed during the following week at the IEC TC57 WG10 meeting which will be at Entergy.

A block of rooms is being reserved at the Marriott Arts District / Convention Center in New Orleans. This will be the site of the activities and there is an expectation that all witnesses and participants will stay at this hotel so that UCAIUG can fulfill its contract with the hotel.

The cost for the boot camp, witnessing, or IOP participation is to be determined.

Planning and test development sessions will begin in November 2016.

For further information, please contact:

Kay Clinard ([kay@ucaug.org](mailto:kay@ucaug.org)) or Herbert Falk ([herb@sisconet.com](mailto:herb@sisconet.com))



## IEC 61850 Boot Camp & Interoperability Testing

### New Program – IEC 61850 Boot Camp!

Utilities want to be reassured of the IEC 61850 expertise of their employees and consultants. In the past, lack of expertise has led to unsuccessful IEC 61850 projects and, in some cases, the culpability was improperly placed on the IEC 61850 technology or standard.

There is no doubt that to properly utilize and design IEC 61850, adequate education and hands-on experience are needed prior to the initial project. It's not easy for utilities and consultants to justify investment into an IEC 61850 testing and learning laboratory in order to gain experience. It is also true that, simply reading the standard does not constitute expertise. Although the UCAIug IOP testing events offer a cost effective opportunity to obtain firsthand experience with IEC 61850, it has not previously provided a formal training program. As a result, a new IEC 61850 Boot Camp program has been created to supplement the IOP testing event by providing additional learning opportunities.

Boot Camp participants will receive:

- IEC 61850 training prior to the IOP test
- Opportunity for Continuing Education Credits<sup>1</sup>.
- Boot Camp Certificates upon completion of IOP Witness participation and exam

NOTE: The training agenda is still under development and suggestions are welcomed. Currently, major topics include:

- **STANDARD CAPABILITIES OVERVIEW:** Learn the high level capabilities of the standard and how those capabilities are successfully applied.
- **IEC 61850 SUBSTATION SYSTEM ENGINEERING:** Learn how to use IEC 61850 SCL to successfully design a substation.
- **COMMISSIONING & MAINTENANCE TESTING METHODOLOGIES:** Learn best practices for testing IEC 61850 systems as part of the commission process and “live” field testing.
- **PROJECT EXECUTION:** Learn how to successfully execute an IEC 61850 project and avoid potential mistakes. Examples will be provided.

It is not the purpose of the Boot Camp to guarantee that an IEC 61850 project will be successful. Rather the goal is that, it will allow utilities to have more comfort in the expertise of the consultants that they hire in the future.

For further information, please contact:

Kay Clinard ([kay@ucaug.org](mailto:kay@ucaug.org)) or Herbert Falk ([herb@sisconet.com](mailto:herb@sisconet.com))

---

<sup>1</sup> Still under consideration