Working Together toward Interoperability

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The Pacific Northwest Smart Grid Demonstration Project is breaking new ground on a number of fronts, from developing methodologies for transactive control – the distributed communication, control and incentive system that's at the heart of the Project – to integrating renewable energy resources, such as wind and solar. It's working on the largest scale ever attempted, with 11 utilities spanning five states, and regions ranging from high-density urban to low-density rural. To keep all of the diverse parts working smoothly, it's vital that each segment meets specified standards and all parts work together seamlessly. That's where QualityLogic comes in.

QualityLogic's role is to test each transactive node – the individual pieces of the Transactive Control System – for *conformance* to design and performance specifications and ability to *interoperate*, or work interchangeably,with other nodes. The Project's Standards Work Group conducted a survey of the Utility Subprojects to find out what standards they will use to send Transactive Incentive Signal information to their own responsive assets, which might include wind power, battery storage, home energy management systems, appliances, distributed generation and smart meters, to name a few.

The team reached a major milestone earlier this year when they successfully tested connectivity between a first group of nodes to see how well they could work together. The nodes serve as the "plumbing" of the project and the testing demonstrated system stability.

Now, on to the next!

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