

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **General Electric's John McDonald Named Smart Grid Professional of the Year**

*Smart Grid Consumer Collaborative Executive Director Patty Durand a finalist for the award*

**ATLANTA, GA – December 7, 2011** – The Technology Association of Georgia (TAG) Smart Grid Society held its first annual awards ceremony on Tuesday, where John McDonald, Director of Technical Strategy and Policy Development at General Electric Digital Energy, was named the TAG Smart Grid Professional of the Year. Smart Grid Consumer Collaborative (SGCC) Executive Director Patty Durand was a finalist for the inaugural award.

The Smart Grid Professional of the Year is an individual who is engaged in innovative projects that have accelerated the adoption of the smart grid, demonstrates thought leadership in smart grid, develops smart grid products or services that have increased Georgia's exports, displays business leadership and innovation that have created new job opportunities in Georgia or creates educational or marketing programs that have increased public awareness of the need for smart grid.

"No one is more deserving of the title Smart Grid Professional of the Year more than my colleague and friend, John McDonald," said Patty Durand, who serves on the Board of Directors of the TAG Smart Grid Society. "As the chair of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Smart Grid Interoperability Panel Governing Board for the last year, John has contributed a great deal to the effort to develop standards for the smart grid. These standards are going to be critical to the widespread consumer adoption of smart grid devices."

John McDonald boasts 35 years of experience in electric utility transmission and distribution, and has shared his expertise in over 30 published articles and papers and three co-authored books. He teaches Modern Energy Management Systems at the Georgia Institute of Technology and a smart grid course at GE. He serves on the Department of Energy's Smart Grid Electricity Advisory Committee, the Smart Grid Council of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), the Board of Directors of the GridWise Alliance and the Board of Governors of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Standards Association. He also chairs the Board of Directors of SGCC, of which General Electric is a founding member.

#### **About Smart Grid Consumer Collaborative**

Smart Grid Consumer Collaborative (SGCC), is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with the mission of accelerating the adoption of a smart grid that is consumer-safe, consumer-friendly and consumer-approved. Membership is open to all consumer and environmental advocates,

technology vendors, research laboratories and electric utilities for collaboration in research, best practices and consumer education. Learn more at [www.smartgridcc.org](http://www.smartgridcc.org).

**About the Technology Association of Georgia Smart Grid Society**

The [TAG Smart Grid Society](#) seeks to accelerate economic growth and job creation within Georgia's smart grid companies by exploring key technologies and collaborations necessary to drive smart grid systems into reality.

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