



MESA STANDARDS ALLIANCE SPECIFICATION TO BECOME IEEE STANDARD

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. (November 16, 2022) – The MESA Standards Alliance is pleased to announce that its MESA-DER standard will soon become an IEEE international standard (IEEE P1815.2). The IEEE Power Systems Communication Committee has formed Working Group P15 to formalize MESA-DER as IEEE P1815.2. Utilities and vendors will soon be able to point to an international standard to guide communications between utility systems and distributed energy resources (DER).

Most utilities around the country utilize the DNP3 protocol for their utility control communication systems (“SCADA systems”). The MESA-DER DNP3 protocol organizes data from distributed energy installations so it can be easily understood by utility SCADA systems. Electric utilities or aggregators can utilize MESA-DER/IEEE P1815.2 to significantly lower integration and implementation costs for large energy storage systems, microgrids, solar inverter power plants, and other DER.

“The MESA Standards Alliance has worked toward the creation of open, non-proprietary specifications and information models that utilities, DER developers, and manufacturers alike can use to achieve interoperability for distributed energy. This milestone represents a significant step towards making MESA the DNP3 communications protocol used industry-wide,” said Scott Gibson of Snohomish County Public Utility District, Chair of the MESA Board of Directors.

“Duke Energy has long been a leader in developing standards that enable both vendors and utilities to deploy systems with better interoperability and a better price point for customers. We need DER systems to be ‘plug and play’ to facilitate the evolving smart grid,” said Tom Fenimore, Director of Smart Grid and Emerging Technologies at Duke Energy. “As the energy storage and DER industry takes off and the number of component vendors proliferates, it is essential to have standardized communication protocols. MESA-DER and the forthcoming IEEE P1815.2 will be integral to standardizing the communication architecture for distributed energy systems.”

Additionally, vendors using MESA-DER will have to adapt their energy storage systems and solar inverter communications less frequently to different requirements set by each utility. Systems can be designed with an integrated single MESA/IEEE standard protocol that includes all the data requirements of both the US and European interconnection standards for distributed energy resources. Bora Akyol, Chief Technology Officer of Trimark Associates and Vice Chair of the MESA Board said, “Trimark Associates is incorporating MESA-DER into our products as we see this as a win-win for our business and our clients. Incorporating MESA-DER into an IEEE standard will expedite DER implementations globally- using it will be required for DNP3 product vendors.”

MESA-DER was originally developed by the MESA Standards Alliance members in 2018, with input from the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), the DNP Users Group, and other DER manufacturers and utilities. Since then, it has been implemented by many DER manufacturers and proven to be an effective way to increase interoperability and reduce one-time engineering costs to integrate DERs into the grid. The time has now come to formalize this protocol into the international standard, IEEE P1815.2.

The MESA Testing & Certification Work Group, led by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, is creating a testing and certification program verifying compliance with the MESA-DER DNP3 specification that will be available in early 2023. The MESA Standards Alliance will continue as the organization that improves functionality and formally tests and certifies that equipment manufacturers meet the new standard.

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About the MESA Standards Alliance

The MESA Standards Alliance is an industry association comprised of electric utilities and technology suppliers whose mission is to accelerate the growth of distributed energy resources and energy storage through the development of open and non-proprietary communication specifications. Members include a growing list of leading utilities and distributed energy and storage solution providers who work together to build interoperability into their respective products and ensure they are architected for grid system integration. More information: www.MESAStandards.org.

MEDIA CONTACTS

Darcy Wheelles, MESA Standards Alliance; darcy@mesastandards.org; (415) 602-4213