



The Utility Standards Board

Navigant Consulting, its partner Distributed Energy Financial Group (DEFG), and its technical expert Xanthus Consulting International provide ongoing technical advisory services to USB members and support the USB de facto standards development efforts.

USB Member Organizations:

- » AEP
- » Arizona Public Service
- » Dominion
- » Duke Energy
- » Hydro One
- » Pepco Holdings, Inc.

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The Utility Standards Board (USB) is a utility industry leader in developing open standards and promoting system interoperability. In coordination with external organizations and international standards bodies, the USB is a consortium of utilities working collectively and openly to accelerate the Smart Grid and Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) efforts and drive industry efforts to standardize Smart Grid system functionality and communications interfaces.

Formed in 2007, and comprised of six large utilities serving twenty U.S. states and Canadian provinces, the USB members are either implementing or planning to implement extensive AMI and Smart Grid systems to deliver more reliable and higher quality power to the customer and to support operational efficiency and reduced metering-related costs.

Through dedicated USB work teams assigned to specific issues, the USB utilities first discuss and then describe their planned business processes to each other, a tremendous learning opportunity for the team members.

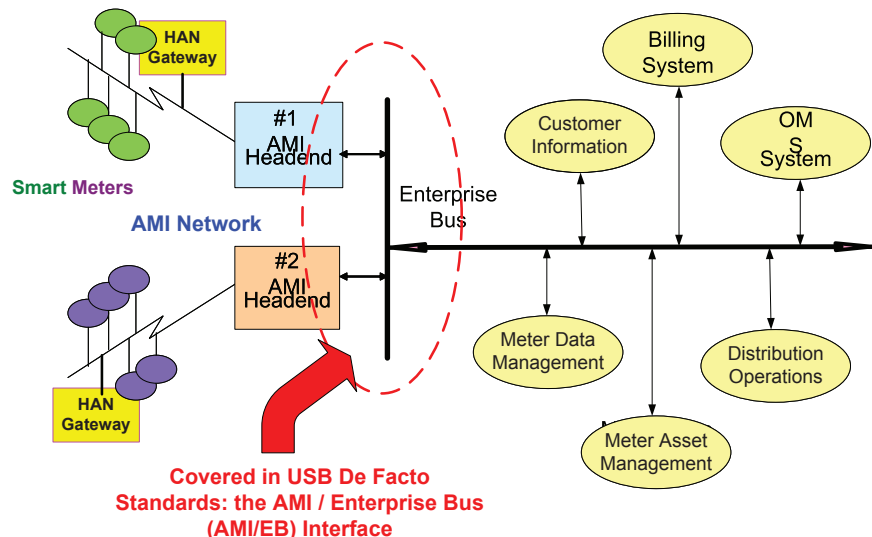
From these business processes, the technical advisors extract the common information

flows across the interfaces, and develop practical, de facto standards. These de facto standards are then discussed with key vendors and industry efforts (such as NRECA's MultiSpeak), and submitted to the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standards organization to be included in the Common Information Model (CIM) standard.

The USB fills a niche not served by existing industry- and government-driven standards organizations. The USB provides a mechanism for utilities to develop functional requirements and technical specifications around selected utility business processes, creating high-quality and up-to-date Use Cases and system interface standards that help member organizations make smarter decisions and support the industry's need for interoperability.

The USB focuses on the interface between the AMI headend systems and the utility "enterprise bus" interconnected to the wide variety of systems, including utility meter data management systems, outage management systems, and other back office systems. Currently the USB has three standards teams actively developing Business Processes and communications standards:

AMI / Enterprise Bus Interface, with Examples of AMI Equipment and Utility Systems



About Navigant Consulting

Navigant Consulting, Inc. (NYSE: NCI) is an international consulting firm combining deep industry expertise and integrated solutions to assist companies in enhancing stakeholder value, improving operations, and addressing the challenges of uncertainty, risk and significant business model change. The Company focuses on industries undergoing substantial regulatory or structural change, including energy, financial services, insurance, and health-care. Navigant Consulting has offices in over 40 cities in North America, Europe and Asia. www.navigantconsulting.com

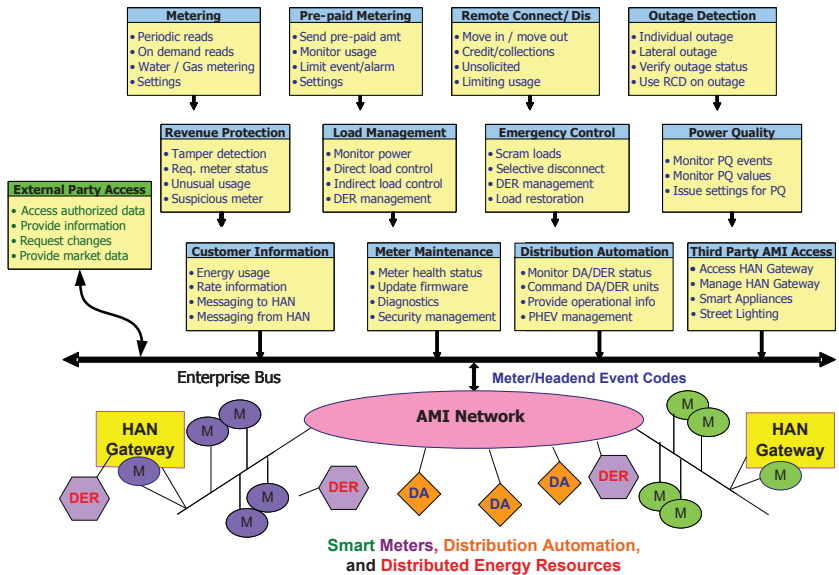
About Distributed Energy Financial Group

The Distributed Energy Financial Group, LLC (DEFG LLC) creates exceptional value for its clients by bringing together customers, technology and solution vendors, and capital providers to develop innovative solutions to today's energy opportunities. DEFG LLC has three branded business units in the energy and environment space: DEFG Consulting provides management consulting services; EcoAlign is a full-service strategic marketing agency focused on energy and the environment; and DEFG Ventures LLC an investment arm that provides capital and advisory services to alternative energy technology companies seeking angel and venture capital. www.defgllc.com

About Xanthus Consulting International

Xanthus provides technical consulting services to the utility industry on automation, communication standards, and cyber security. www.xanthus-consulting.com

Business Processes Utilizing the AMI/Enterprise Bus Interface



Meter/Headend Event Code (MHEC)

The USB MHEC Team is working with MultiSpeak and the IEC TC57 WG14 to identify, describe, and categorize the multitude of error and event codes that are produced by the many different AMI systems and need to be understood by the many different utility systems. De facto standards were published for industry comment in Q4 2008.

Remote Connect/Disconnect (RCD)

The USB RCD Team has developed Business Processes related to remote connect, disconnect, and reconnect processes. The Team is now developing the AMI / Enterprise Bus interface standards, enabling improved interoperability between disparate AMI and back-office enterprise systems. De facto standards were published for industry comment in Q1, 2009.

Outage Detection/Restoration (ODR)

The USB ODR Team, launched in September 2008, is developing the Business Processes applicable to outage detection and restoration services. The Team will go on to develop the AMI / Enterprise Bus interface de facto standards, enabling improved interoperability between disparate AMI and back-office and operations systems. De facto standards were published for industry comment in Q1, 2009.

Smart Grid: Interoperability and Standards

The USB has also developed a White Paper on interoperability and standards which discusses those concepts and identifies the industry groups addressing the various issues. (see www.utilitystandardsboard.com)