

November 19, 2019

To: UCAIUG Board of Directors

Good day folks,

Twenty years ago, we came together with a vision of an automated electric utility. We have had a great adventure together! KCA was formed to continue managing EPRI projects focused on Utility Communications Architecture. Together with you the GOMSFE [Generic Object Models for Substation and Feeder Equipment] was developed. When Bill Blair tasked us to implement a UCA Users Group as part of an EPRI project, I was not sure where to start, having never been in a user's group. Fortunately, many of you had and were there to guide me. UCAIUG first incorporated as a Non-Profit Users Group, using KCA funds, in order to separate from EPRI control. UCAIUG started with 17 founding companies, including Utilities and Vendors. After UCAIUG was up and running, UCAIUG reimbursed KCA for the startup costs.

UCAIUG initial focus was on Substation and Feeder Automation and passing our EPRI work on GOMSFE to the IEC and working with the Editors to develop IEC 61850. CIMUG joined the UCAIUG umbrella in 2005, and the scope of UCAIUG work broadened from control center and substations to the larger utility environment. The CIMUG meets face to face two times each year, once in Europe and once in the USA. In 2014 CIMUG held a meeting in Australia and started an Oceanic Pacific CIMUG chapter.

Starting in 2006 and continuing bi-annually through 2018, UCAIUG had a booth as CIGRE in Paris. The booths were a multivendor effort and served to demonstrate to the world that IEC61850 worked and allowed participating vendors equipment to "play well with each other".

In 2008 OpenSG was added under the UCAIUG umbrella with three meetings per year that grew to have 8-9 meeting rooms in parallel. In 2010 NIST initiated the Smart Grid Interoperability Panel [SGIP] to identify and propose solutions for any gaps between the various Standards for Utility Automation. As it progressed, the SGIP strived to provide value by broadening its scope. Some of the OpenSG participants thought SGIP would handle their issues better and moved to SGIP. Ironically, in 2018 OpenFMB was added as a user community, via a transfer from SGIP.

Over the years, we have developed a Category D liaison with IEC TC57 working groups 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 19. In 2010 UCAIUG put in place a liaison agreement with ZIGBEE.

UCAlug spent a couple of years evaluating Green Button efforts and developing test procedures. In 2015, UCAlug incorporated the Green Button Alliance as a sub company to UCAlug to administer our testing efforts in the arena of Green Button. As of 2018 we have pursued separating the Green Button Alliance. This year the process was completed.

A couple of years ago Margaret Goodrich joined UCAlug as VP Operations. Margaret has focused on our user communities the IEC61850ug, CIMug, and OpenFMB. Her assignment has been to coordinate and guide meetings and support the operations of the user communities.

As standards were developed, we had to develop test procedures to verify vendor implementations. Between IEC61850 and the CIM this has grown to be a main part of UCAlug effort. Starting with one vendor, one device and one testing laboratory. Today there are 16 approved Testing Laboratories, and 1058 Test Certificates for devices. UCAlug has also held Bi-annual IOPs for UCAlug. A couple of years ago Herb Falk joined UCAlug as VP Testing.

Along the way, there have been slips and falls and bumps in the road, but we have always gotten back up and continued forward. Over the years UCAlug has grown to just under 200 companies that fluctuates from year to year as Member companies join and leave. Member Companies now include Utilities, Vendors, Consultants, Universities, and Public Utility Commissions. This does not include 270 Individual Members. You will recall the process involved many days, locations, thousands of man-hours, and hundreds of face to face meetings then evolving to regular meetings via GoToMeeting.

I am retiring from UCAlug at the end of 2019. Some of you have been with me since the beginning, others have joined along the way. I want to thank each of you and those who came before you for your support and dedication to UCAlug. My hope is that you will continue the adventure with great success! I have enjoyed the fellowship, engineering discussions, and in the end the hugs after the meeting is over.

Kindest regards,



Kay Clinard, PE
President, UCAlug
