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For Immediate Release

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ACIL Brings Objectivity to Smart Grid Accreditation

As an integral member of the [National Institute of Standards and Technology's](#) (NIST) Smart Grid Interoperability Panel (SGIP), the [American Council of Independent Laboratories](#) (ACIL) transformed the Smart Grid accreditation and testing criteria just released in the SGIP *Interoperability Process Reference Manual** (IPRM), version 2.0, to create additional value for the American consumer and facilitate implementation of the Smart Grid, the next generation power grid that integrates modern communication technologies with the power-delivery infrastructure.

As a trade association representing product testing laboratories and accreditation bodies (ABs), ACIL successfully advocated for increased competition among accreditation bodies (ABs) with national and international recognition and use of existing international standards to reduce costs.

Through NIST Smart Grid Testing and Certification Committee Chair Rik Drummond's leadership, the SGIP expanded the list of ABs recognized to accredit laboratories to the IPRM to include ACIL members [A2LA](#), [PJLA](#) and [L-A-B](#), more than doubling the number of identified ABs. In addition, ACIL members, led by Don Heirman, provided in-depth technical information to assist in modifying the hundreds of standards required to enable countless electrical devices to work together seamlessly within the Smart Grid.

According to ACIL CEO Milton Bush, "ACIL's involvement in Smart Grid illustrates our commitment to a transparent process for coordinating conformity assessment in the US, involving all stakeholders, which in the end will produce better standards, better product testing and certification systems and ultimately better products for the US marketplace."

Smart Grid technologies aim to transform the nation's aging electric power system into a network that will enable two-way flows of energy, communication and control capabilities and allow electrical devices to work together seamlessly, giving accredited testing laboratories and certification bodies a vital role in ensuring broad interoperability and expediting Smart Grid implementation.

The IPRM establishes the process to accredit testing laboratories and certification bodies needed to support implementation of the myriad of standards and help ensure high quality, consistent test results, and ensure that consumer products work as advertised, noted Drummond.

About ACIL

Celebrating 75 years in 2012, ACIL represents 150 third-party, independent commercial scientific and engineering firms with over 1,000 facilities across the US engaged in testing, product certification, consulting, and research and development to enhance public health and safety. A trade association based in Washington, DC, ACIL provides opportunities for advocacy, education and cross-discipline synergy to its members, and also offers affiliated membership to manufacturer's laboratories, consultants and suppliers to the industry.