Training for the Smart Grid of the Future

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U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu announced on April 8, 2010, that the Department of Energy award selections were made for nearly $100 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) funding. This funding is specifically tagged for Smart Grid workforce training programs that will help prepare the next generation of workers in the utility and electrical manufacturing industries. Siemens PTI was fortunate to be part of two winning applications:

- Pacific Center for Advanced Technology Training (PCATT) – This project is to develop and enhance a career pathway for technicians who will deploy and maintain electric power transmission and distribution through the application of Smart Grid technologies. PCATT’s total project value is $833,000, of which $750,000 is slated for Recovery Act funding (pending negotiations). Siemens PTI and Siemens Power Academy Transmission and Distribution in North America (Siemens Power Academy TD - NA) will work in partnership with PCATT to develop electric power sector training programs, with our consultants providing their knowledge as industry experts in the process.

- Oncor Electric Delivery Company, LLC – The Grid Reliability through Engineer Advancement and Training (GREAT) program is to prepare Oncor’s system planners and system protection engineers to successfully achieve a Smart Grid that effectively incorporates the increasing generation of renewable energy in Texas. Oncor’s total project value is $431,937, of which $188,748 is slated for Recovery Act funding (pending negotiations). Siemens PTI’s portion of the proposal includes a combination of open enrollment registrations and on-site courses delivered by Siemens Power Academy TD - NA each year for the next three years.

Thanks to the strong partnerships formed between Siemens PTI, Siemens Power Academy TD - NA and representatives from the utility industry and academia, we are on our way to educating engineers and technicians for the Smart Grid of the future! (For the complete DOE press release, visit http://www.energy.gov/news/8842.htm.) To discuss opportunities to partner on other ARRA-related projects, please contact Samantha Cooper at samantha.cooper@siemens.com.