UCA International User’s Group  
OpenSG UtiliComm Network Interoperability  
Scope and Charter

**Abstract**

The UCAI UtiliComm Network Interoperability Task Group has been formed under the auspices of OpenSG Communications (UtiliComm). This document represents a charter for this group and defines the scope of work for that charter.

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# UtiliComm Network Interoperability Task Force Scope and Charter

## Charter

The UCAI OpenSG Communications (UtiliComm) Network Interoperability Task Force is constituted to operate under the OpenSG Subcommittee. The charter of the Network Interoperability Task Force is a derivative of the OpenSG UtiliComm charter. The organization of OpenSG is depicted in Figure 1 (showing the Network Interop Task Force under UtiliComm).



Figure - OpenSG Network Interoperabilty Task Force

The Network Interoperability Task Group is chartered with defining requirements for a common infrastructure deployed in the HAN that will enable distributed Smart Energy applications. Specifically, the Network Interoperabilty Task Group will support applications employing the Smart Energy (SE) V2 Application Profile, originally defined within the ZigBee/HomePlug Market Requirements Document (MRD), to reliably exchange messages between application entities, such that all use cases and requirements handed down by the OpenSG Smart Energy MRD and Use Cases are satisfied.

In support of this goal, the Task Group shall make recommendations regarding platform components and communications stack functionality. In particular, the Task Group will be responsible for defining how components employing IEEE802.15.4, HomePlug AV/SE and other physical layers interoperate, and how hybrid systems employing combinations of physical layers may be configured to cover the complete set of use cases envisioned in the OpenSG Market Requirements Document (MRD) and Use Cases. Furthermore, it is acknowledged that all of the deployments targeted by OpenSG will contain subsystems and components that communicate using the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) Internet Protocol (IP) family of standards. The Task Group will also be responsible for specifying how these IP sub-systems and components are incorporated into the system as a whole such that all relevant use-cases and market requirements are satisfied.

The UtiliComm Network Interoperability Task Force may also cover application support and security support topics such as:

* + Efficient delivery of XML meta data between entities in the system
  + Deployment of security policies within various layers of the OSI stack
  + Service discovery services
  + Other communications and support features as identified by the SG Systems and SG Security Working Groups.

## Scope

The activities of the UtilComm Network Interoperability Task Force shall be limited in scope in order to support proper division of labour with respect to the other Working Groups and to provide boundaries for the task at hand. Specifically:

* The UtiliComm Working Group will create a Charter and Scope, based on this document and approved by the Working Group, for submission to OpenSG as a basis for work going forward.
* The UtiliComm Working Group will create, distribute and maintain a schedule and roadmap detailing the tasks and milestones that comprise the group's work, including all tasks undertaken by the AMI Network and Network Interop task groups;
* The scope of work shall be limited to the functioning of those networking stack layers that reside between the Application layer interface and the physical layer interface;
* Notwithstanding these restrictions the group will provide analysis regarding the overall compatibility of the components specified to operate in the context of a hybrid system.
* Further, the Working Group shall assist the Certification Task Group in their job in defining the test plans and protocol interchange conformance statements (PICs) to apply certification to the components in its charter.

The UtiliComm Network Interoperability Task Force will accomplish its charter in the following manner:

* In conjunction with the SG Systems Working Group, analyzes the OpenSG Marketing Requirements Documents, Use Cases and OpenHAN Specification to derive detailed technical requirements on communication subsystems in the scope of Network Interoperability
* Works with identified standards development organizations such as IETF, IEEE, IEC and W3C and vendor consortiums such as the ZigBee Alliance, HomePlug, OASIS, IPSO and any other organization seeking to address the OpenSG Market Requirements to provide technical requirements and guidance in completion and compliance testing of products meeting OpenSG market requirements.
* Reports to OpenSG on schedule, roadmap, standards development organization status and vendor consortium status in achieving deployment of products targeting the OpenSG Market Requirements and the OpenHAN specification.