



## Collaboration Wins

By Lisa V. Wood, executive director of The Edison Foundation Institute for Electric Innovation and vice president of The Edison Foundation.

As 2013 came to a close, electric utility and technology company executives, policymakers, and other stakeholders gathered in Washington, DC, to discuss how partnerships and collaboration are transforming the electric power sector. At the event, we released our new book, “Innovations Across the Grid: Partnerships Transforming the Power Sector,” which provides an in-depth look into more than 70 utility-technology company partnerships currently underway across the country, and also unveiled our new name, *The Edison Foundation Institute for Electric Innovation*. The complete book may be downloaded at [www.edisonfoundation.net](http://www.edisonfoundation.net).



L TO R: NorthWestern Energy's Bob Rowe, Pepco Holdings' Joe Rigby, Institute for Electric Innovation's Lisa Wood, and OGE Energy's Pete Delaney discuss the new book, “Innovations Across the Grid.”

### Spanning Two Worlds

As energy technology meets information technology, the electric power grid is getting even more interesting—and complex. By joining the so-called basic grid infrastructure—poles, wires, substations, and transformers—with entrepreneurial thinking, new technology, and engineering know-how, we are working to make the power grid more reliable, more efficient, and more productive.

“Innovations Across the Grid” provides an inside look at how utilities are deploying digital communications, sensors, control systems, and millions of digital smart meters to position the electric power grid for the 21st century and beyond. In doing so, they are merging previously separate power, information, and telecommunication systems into an intelligent, resilient, modern, and digital grid. While much of the initial excitement about “smart grid” was on the “customer side” of the meter, the book shows that most of the early gains from investments in new technologies are upstream, on the “utility side” of the meter. By reading the book, you will learn how smart grid investments around the country are producing a two-way power and information highway.

As electric utilities prepare to innovate operationally, transform culturally, and reinvent their business model, they must balance the opportunity and challenge of investing in the system architecture of the future with the needs of customers today. Understanding how the grid is changing and recognizing the critical importance of what we do are the driving forces behind the partnerships and projects described in the book.

Some are placing bets against the ability of the electric power sector to deliver on innovation and to keep up with the demands and lifestyles of customers. I'd caution those that take a cynical view on the ability of the electric power sector to adapt, change, and innovate. I expect you will be surprised to learn how innovative our industry is right now.

### Looking Forward

“This book highlights the projects we are undertaking as an industry to meet the opportunities and challenges of a rapidly evolving world,” said Institute for Electric Innovation Co-Chair and NorthWestern Energy President and CEO Bob Rowe. “Innovations Across the Grid” exemplifies the electric utility industry’s commitment to making the grid more reliable, resilient, secure, and efficient for our customers and American businesses.

It’s up to us in the utility industry, working with technology partners, to design and build the innovations that will keep our nation and the world supplied with secure, reliable, affordable, and increasingly clean energy. In doing so, we are enabling electricity to deliver even more value—to grow the economy, protect the environment, and provide a platform for the innovations of the future. This story is far from over. **EP**



*The Edison Foundation Institute for Electric Innovation focuses on advancing the adoption and application of new technologies that will strengthen and transform the power grid. The Institute's members are investor-owned electric utilities that represent about 70 percent of the U.S. electric power industry and are committed to an affordable, reliable, secure, and clean energy future.*

The logo for EET (Electrical Engineering Technology) is located in the top left corner of the magazine cover. It consists of the letters 'EET' in a stylized, bold font inside a white square.

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# EP

ELECTRIC  
PERSPECTIVES

AEP'S NICK AKINS:

# Securing and Strengthening the Grid

6

TOM KUHN'S 2014  
INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

28

LESSONS FROM GERMANY'S  
FEED-IN TARIFFS