Member Advisory

**Meeting the Challenges of Today's
Integrated Distribution Network with MultiSpeak®**

What has changed?

The traditional electric distribution co-op is changing. The evolution of the grid with increased distributed energy resources, home energy management, and storage, requires not just effective two-way power flow but also two-way **data flow**. One of the challenges for distribution cooperatives to successfully manage and adapt to this complex system is to incorporate 1) data analytics 2) interoperable systems 3) and secure communication networks. All three must holistically rest on a solid foundation of cybersecurity and function within a framework that promotes a culture of safety for the employees and the member-consumers. (For more about this new model for electric distribution planning, operation, and optimization called Distribution System Operator (DSO), please see our related Member Advisory *Distribution Optimization: It's Not Your Grandfather's Distribution Cooperative Anymore*.)

Present investments in systems (AMI, OMS, AVL, SCADA, etc.) must be considered within this new distribution framework. The time for each system being evaluated on its own merit is past. **Your distribution systems are now part of an integrated network.** As such, the interaction of the systems and the effective transmission of data back-and-forth are critical to operations, and interoperability standards are the key to success.
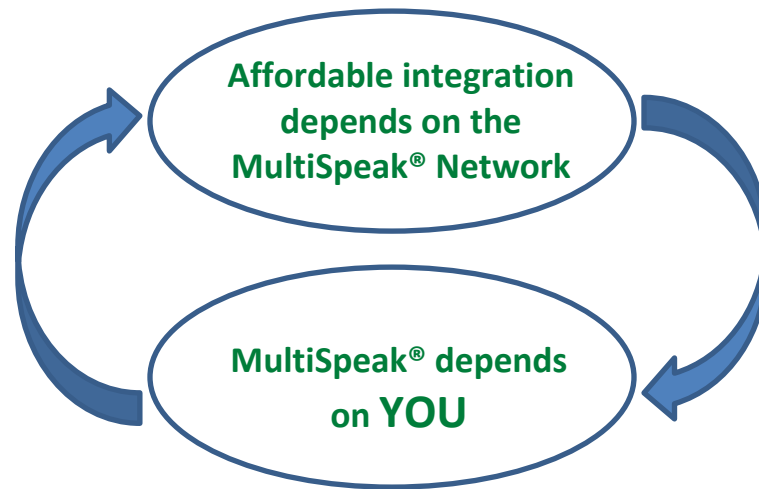
MultiSpeak®, the leading interoperability standard and integration solution that enables software systems to "talk" to each other without expensive custom integration, is the foundation of the Distribution System Network. It is already used by more than 800 electric utilities in more than 21 countries worldwide. By building your co-op's systems using the MultiSpeak® specification, you are working with an eye toward the future AND **saving your member-consumers additional costs** that would otherwise be spent on custom integrations.

Co-op Support For MultiSpeak®

As this industry becomes more complex, the value of having an interoperability standard has never been more crucial. We are constantly working to update and improve the MultiSpeak® Specification, so it meets the needs of our evolving industry – including enhancing standards for cybersecurity, testing and certification, and distributed energy resource integration.

In order to ensure that the MultiSpeak® Network continues to evolve to meet requirements of our evolving industry, your participation is critical.

Affordable integration depends on the MultiSpeak® Network

MultiSpeak® depends on **YOU**

NRECA is committed to assisting cooperatives in their efforts to ensure effective distribution operations, including system integration. Our management role of MultiSpeak® allows NRECA to ensure the needs and perspective of co-ops are represented in the determination of this world-recognized standard and integration solution. MultiSpeak® participant subscriptions are necessary to support NRECA's role on behalf of members. Over 100 cooperatives belong to the MultiSpeak® Network today, and that number is growing.

Why should I invest in MultiSpeak®? What do I get for my subscription?

A MultiSpeak® subscription is **only $500 a year** for electric cooperatives, and the benefits far outweigh the cost. For your $500 a year investment, you are able to:

- Avoid the expenses associated with building expensive custom interfaces
- Access the secured document download site
- Receive FREE in-person Training
- Connect with utilities worldwide to share best practices
- Invest in the continuous development and enhancement of an industry-leading interoperability standard
- Participate in the Technical Committee Process
- Access the latest version of the standard and downloadable schemas
- Vote and have a role in the future direction of the standard
- **…and coming Soon for members only:** *Access RFP specification guides, Online testing and certification, MultiSpeak® app-store, MultiSpeak® e-learning web portal, business process diagrams, function set documentation, and more*!

As part of the MultiSpeak® Network , you can ensure MultiSpeak® continues to exist, which allows your co-op to thrive in the new DSO framework by advancing seamless and cyber secure connectivity, automating processes more cost-effectively, and ultimately, de-risking technology integration.

By co-ops investing in MultiSpeak® today,
we are securing OUR Technology Integration
& Cyber Security challenges of tomorrow.

– Expression from numerous co-op CEOs

Join to Benefit from MultiSpeak®

Visit multispeak.org to learn more about the benefits of MultiSpeak® Network and click on **"create my account"** to join:

Join the MultiSpeak® Network Now

Additional Resources

- MultiSpeak® Website
- BTS Portfolio of Work
- TechUpdate twice-monthly newsletter for ongoing information on BTS research, reports, and events: Sign-Up here

Contacts for Questions

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