

# Panel on GREEN/SMART ACCESSIBILITY

## Accessibility and Smart IoT-based Environments: Obstacles and Opportunities

Moderator

Erchin Serpedin, Texas A&M University, USA

### **Panelists**

Lukas Smirek, Stuttgart-Media University, Germany

Bong Jun Choi, Stony Brook University / SUNY Korea, Republic of Korea

Kristin Skeide Fuglerud, NR–Norsk Regnesentral, Norway

Maxime Lefrancois, Mines Saint Etienne, France

# Accessibility and Smart IoT-based Environments: Obstacles and Opportunities

Lukas:

"User needs and user requirements in Smart Environments? Frequently, developments in IOT and Smart Environments are driven by technical interests and not by the users' needs."

Bong Jun:

"Consideration of user involvement in the smart IoT based energy network: Challenges and Opportunities."

Kristin:

"Multimodal interaction is essential to inclusive design. This is manageable when using a personal device, but how can it be solved in a IoT scenario, with multiple people and multiple devices?"

Maxime:

"How easily can we move from a Web accessible to machines (the Semantic Web), to a Web accessible to Smart IoT devices?"

Erchin:

"Green Communications: Opportunities and Challenges"

# Why Green Communications?

- Motivations for Green Communications
- Green Solutions and Low and High traffic loads
- Heterogeneous Wireless Medium
- Green Uplink Multi-homing
- Green Downlink Multi-homing
- VLC-RF Internetworking
- Balanced Dynamic Planning
- Summary—Energy Efficient Communications

**Panel:** GREEN/SMART ACCESSIBILITY  
**Topic:** Accessibility and Smart IoT-based  
Environments - Obstacles and Opportunities  
**Date/Time:** July 25, 2016 17:40 - 19:40

**David (Bong Jun) Choi**

# "Consideration of User Involvement in the Smart IoT based Energy Network: Challenges and Opportunities"

## **Smart Energy Lab**

Department of Computer Science  
The State University of New York Korea, Korea  
& Stony Brook University, USA



# Modern Society

- **Personal**
  - Home, Appliances, Lights, Car, PC, Smart Phone
- **Industry / Business**
  - Factories, Offices, etc.
- **Government**
  - Critical Infrastructures
    - Life Support: Subways, Traffic System, Water System
    - Safety: Military, Surveillance System, and etc.



**“All Sectors of Society are Fueled by Electrical Energy”**

(e.g., Effect of Hurricane Sandy, Power Outages)



## ■ Internet-of-Things (IoT) + Smart Cities

- Computers, Sensors, Equipments, Cars, and etc. powered by Electricity

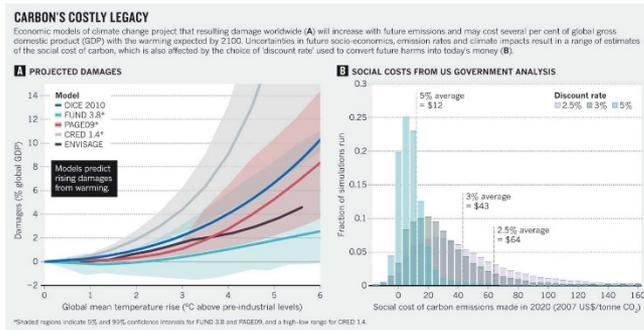


**“Increased Dependence on Reliable and High Quality Electrical Energy”**

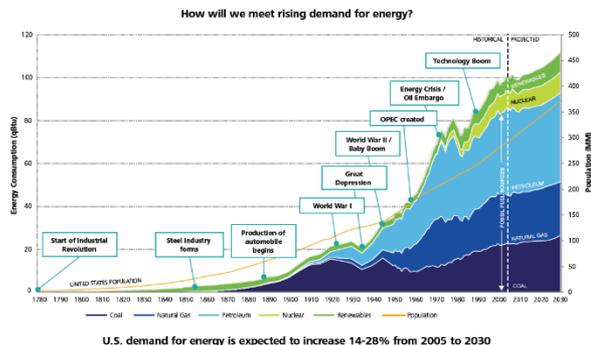
# However, Can We Get There?

## Economic Growth and Technology Advancement is Constrained by...

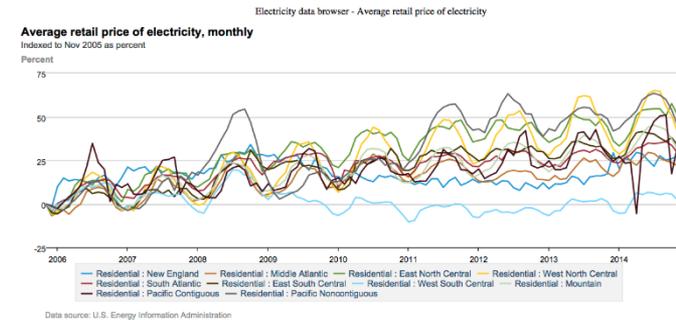
### 1. Environmental Awareness (+ Cost of Climate Change)



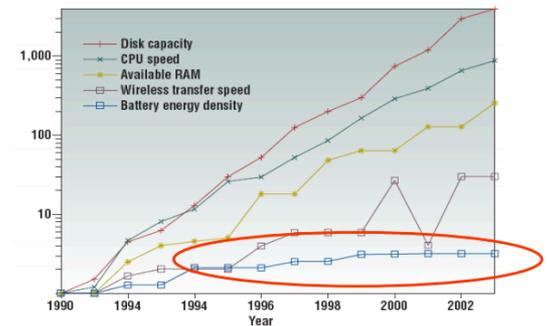
### 2. Increasing Energy Demand



### 3. Rising/Unstable Energy Cost (Oil, Electricity)

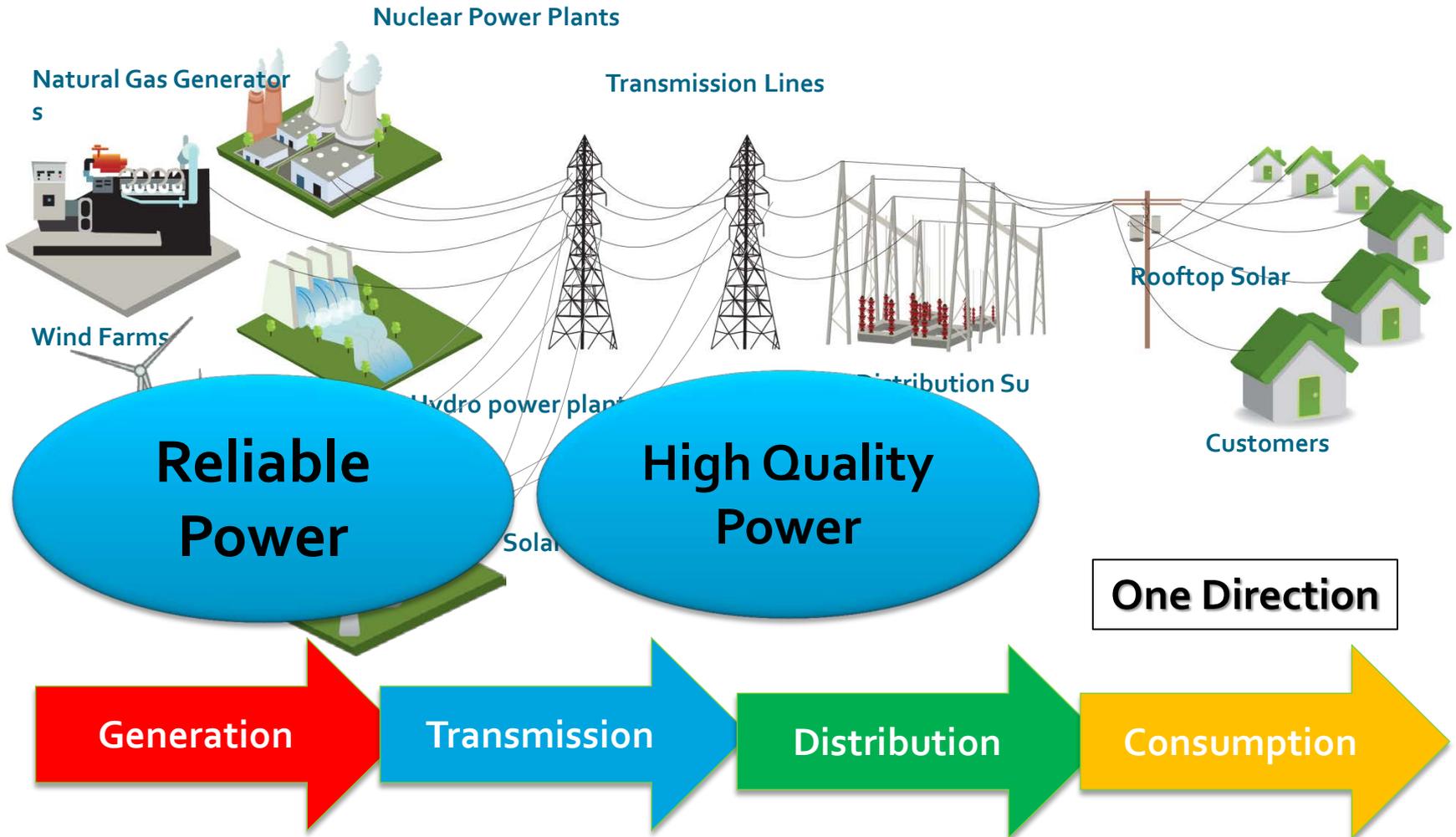


### 4. Physical Limits of Energy Storage Capability

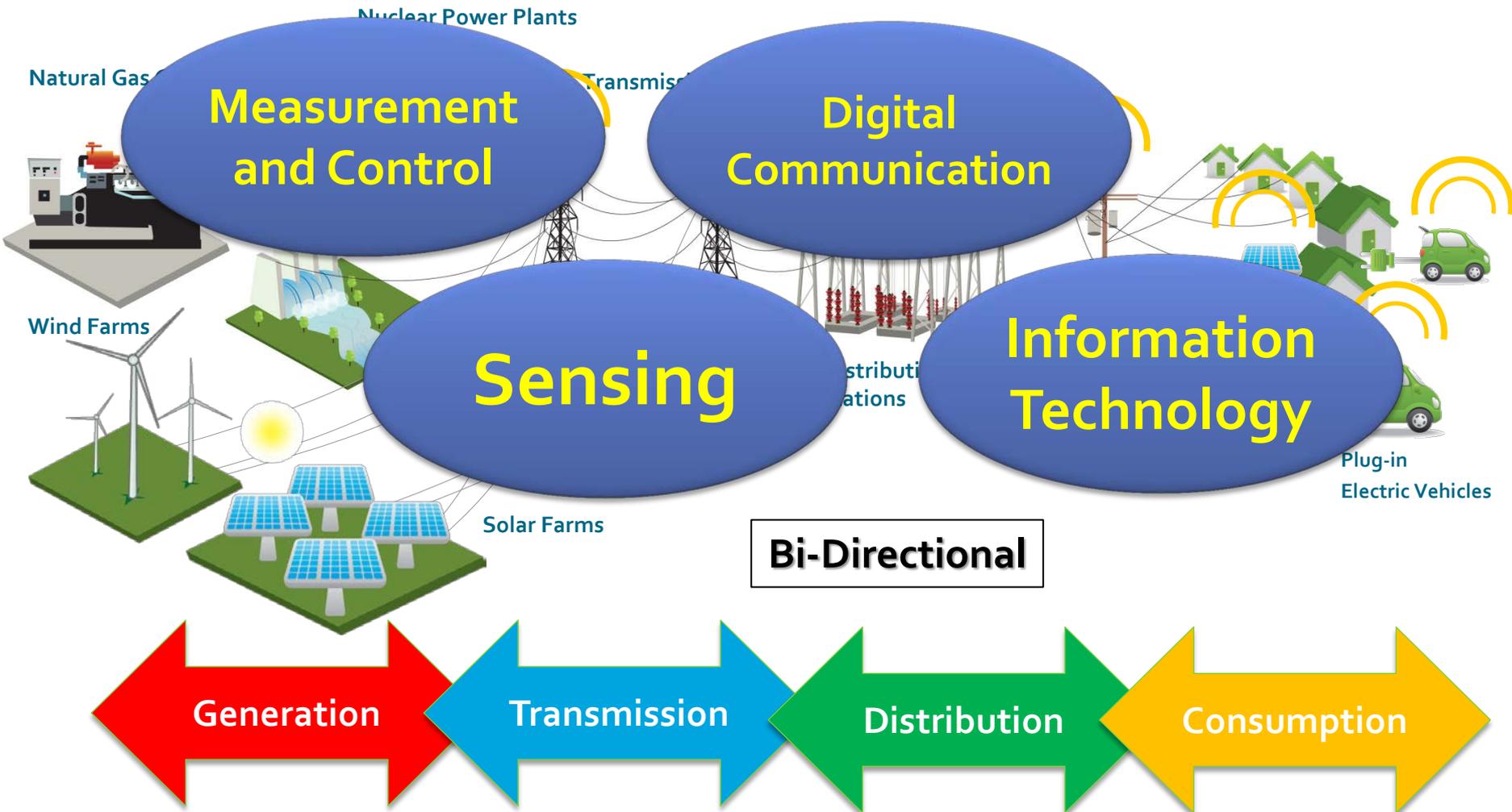


Source: Richard L. Revesz et al., "Global warming: Improve economic models of climate change", Nature, April 2014.  
Thomas Sterner, "Economics: Higher costs of climate change," Nature, November 2015.  
Source: Annual Energy Outlook, EIA (U.S. Energy Information Administration), 2008

# Current Power Grid



# Smart Grid



# Demand Response

## Generators

Nuclear Power Plants

Natural Gas Generators

Wind Farms

Hydro power plants

Solar Farms

**Generators:** collect generation data

## Transmission & Distribution

Transmission Lines

Distribution Substations

**Sensors:** detect faults, breaker status, flow directions, power magnitude, etc..

## Consumers

Home Energy Management (HEM)

Rooftop Solar

Customers

Plug-in Electric Vehicles

**Smart Meters:** collect consumption data; provide load profile, demand, price, etc.  
**Smart Appliances:** usage, control  
**Distributed Generators:** collect generation data  
**Electric Vehicles:** trip, battery status, etc.

# Demand Response

## Generator

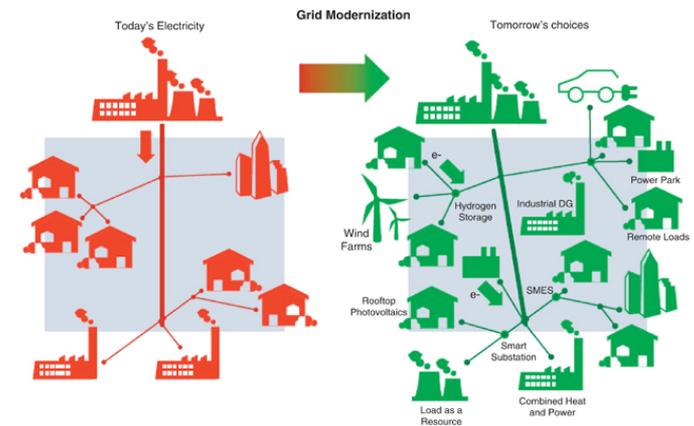
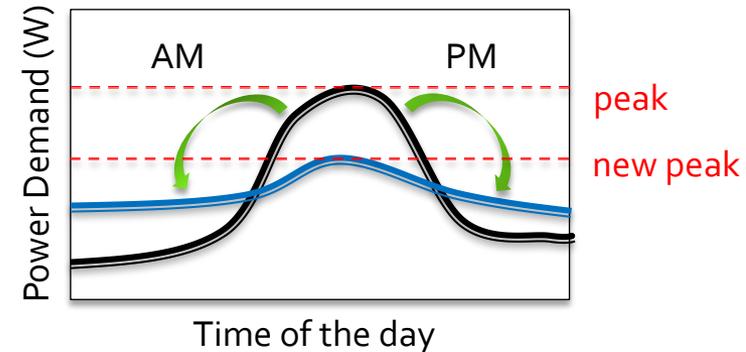
- Peak Shaving through Adaptive Control  
→ Reduce number of generators

## Transmission and Distribution

- Estimation along the line → Dynamic optimization of voltage levels and reactive power, fault detection
- Distributed generation (microgrid) → Increase reliability, reduce transmission loss (from resistance and heat)

## Consumers

- Peak Shaving → Reduce electricity cost
- Distributed generation → Sell energy



# Demand Response

## ■ Challenges:

### ■ “Human Factor”

- Electricity Usage/Cost
- EV mobility

### ■ “Dynamic Nature” of Grid Components

- Distributed generators, demand, price

### ■ System Constrains (for Stability)

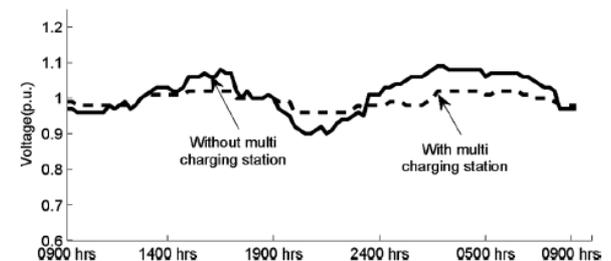
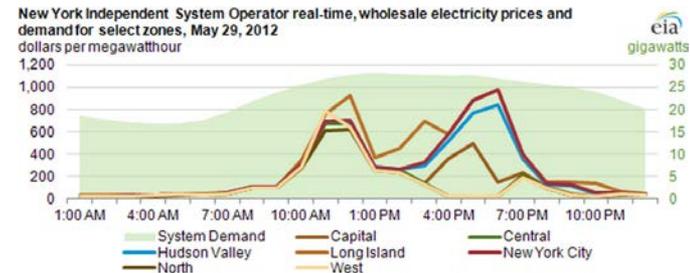
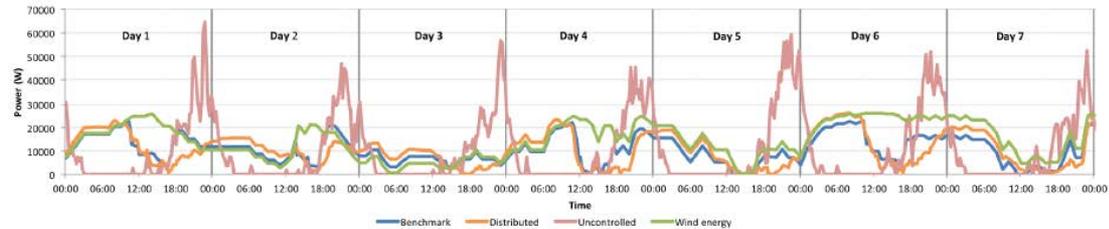
- Power Quality Control (Voltage/Frequency Stability)
- Bi-directional electricity flow
- Lower voltage from DGs

### ■ Communication Architecture

- What communication architecture and technology to use?

## ■ Opportunities:

- Autonomous intelligent controllers manage energy grid through data analysis and control



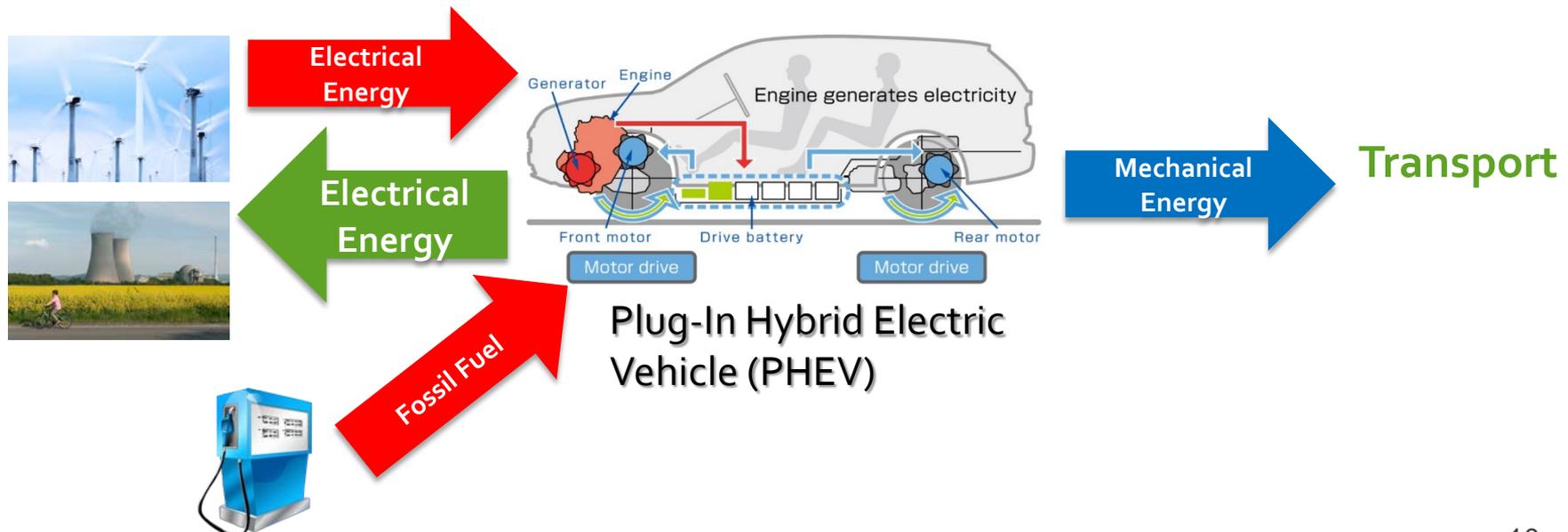
# Electric Vehicles

- Reduce dependence on oil
- “idle capacity of electric power grid” = “70% energy cars and light trucks” (US Department of Energy)



- **Challenges:**

- Adds another variable to the “Demand Response”
- A large number of EVs → A large effect to the energy grid
- Driving



## ■ Challenges:

- Large Amount of Data
  - 2020: 1 billion expected smart meters worldwide (= approx. 60% of all installed meters)
- Large Number of Different Type of Devices
  - intelligent electronic devices located at substations, smart meters, sensors on transmission lines, electric vehicles, smart appliances
- Different Processing and Communication Requirements
- Various User Roles:
  - customers, operators, maintenance personnel, and etc.

## ■ Opportunities:

- Grid Operator Analytics:
  - Grid optimization, Asset Management, Power Flow Analytics, Crisis/Outage Management, Fault Detection
- Consumer Analytics:
  - Cost Optimization, Behavioral Analytics, Building Energy Management

- **Technical Challenges:**
  - Siloed systems prohibit easy data sharing
  - Complexity in systems integration
  - Unstructured data and no common platform
  - Prevention against non-intrusive data analysis
- **Research Opportunities:**
  - Predictive Analytics: For dynamic conditions (renewables, EVs, weather, personal)
  - Distributed Data Analytics: For improving latency, scalability, robustness
  - **Security and Privacy-Preservation of Data**

- **Cyber security** emerges to be a critical issue in **Smart Energy Grid**
  - Millions of electronic devices are inter-connected via communication networks throughout critical power facilities
  - Has an immediate impact on reliability of such a widespread infrastructure.
- **Issues:**
  - System Failure (Outages), Power Flow Disruption
  - Consumer Data Privacy
  - Energy Theft or Hacking of Smart Meters

# Concluding Remarks

- **Discussed Topics in Smart Energy Network**
  - Demand Response
  - EV Charging and Discharging
  - Data Analytics and User Privacy
  
- **To Think About:**
  - Q1: How to design such systems where everyone (customers, service providers, system operators) is happy?
  - Q2: What IoT data should be shared and how should it be maintained and exchanged?
  - Q3: Maintenance of IoT devices (fixes and updates)

# Thank You

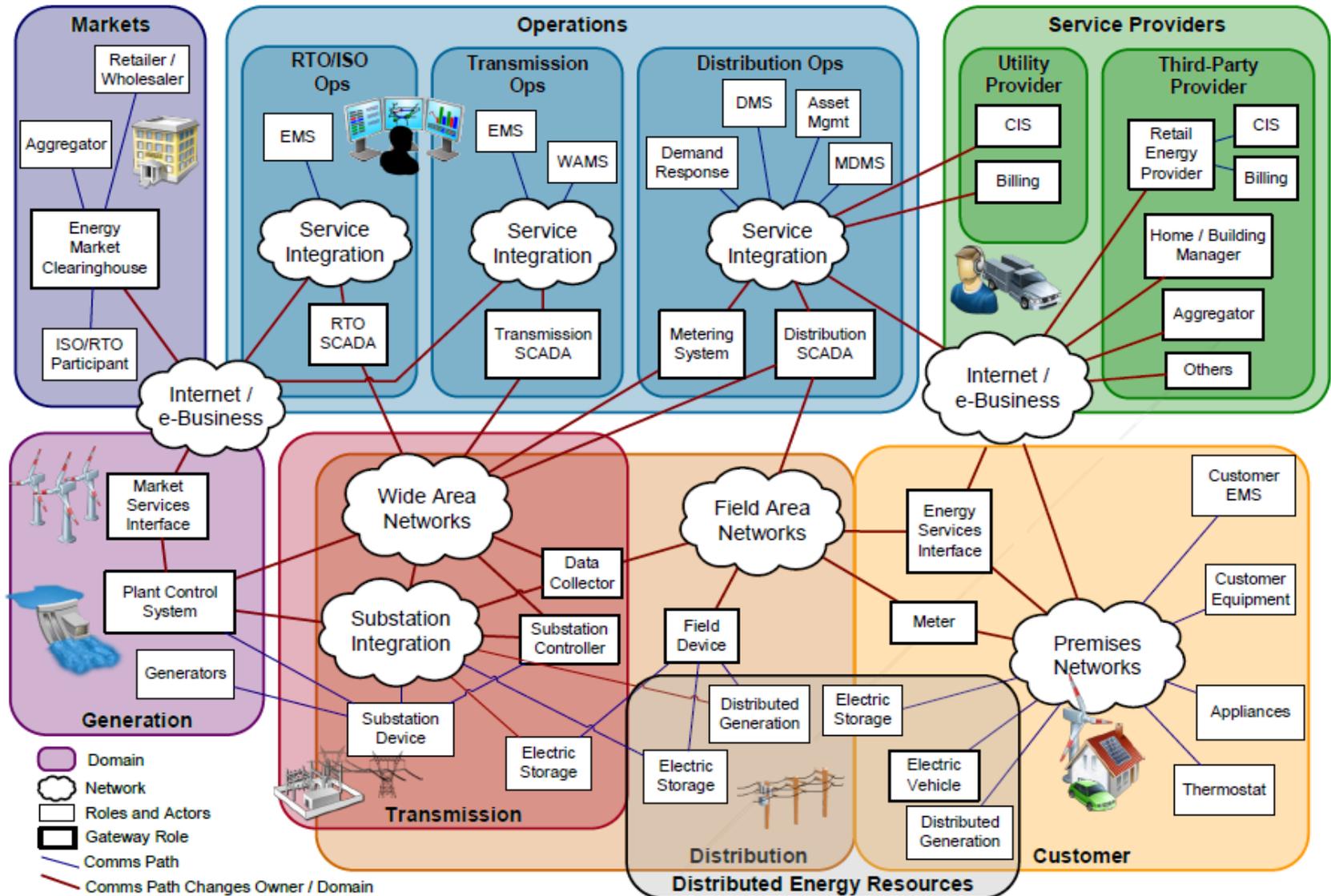
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# SG Information Network







# The need for inclusive and accessible smart environments

- ▶ **Goal:** full and effective participation for all people including people with disabilities, chronic illnesses and older people
- ▶ **Humanistic motivation:** creating equal opportunities, respect for inherent dignity and individual autonomy
- ▶ **Economic motivation:** if failing to think inclusive design when creating IoT-based environments, new barriers will inevitably emerge → society will lose valuable resources

# What do I envision?

- ▶ Enhancing the surroundings with ambient intelligence and digital interfaces so humans can interact according to their abilities and preferences.
- ▶ The human-environment interaction is guided by context, preferences, surrounding objects, history of use and appropriate modalities.

# Obstacles and opportunities (1)

- ▶ Interoperability
  - including compatibility with assistive technology
- ▶ Meeting user needs
  - user involvement
- ▶ Profiling and privacy
  - security
  - tracking
  - trust

# Obstacles and opportunities (2)

- ▶ Multimodal interaction
  - essential for accessibility
- ▶ Interaction translation
  - personal devices vs built in tech. in the environment
- ▶ Conflict resolutions - complexity
  - many to many devices and users



**user needs and user  
requirements in Smart  
Environments – chances  
and challenges for  
accessibility**

*Lukas Smirek, Stuttgart Media University*

## Applications, chances and challenges of smart environments

- Entertainment
- Security features
- Energy efficiency
- Transportation services
- E-Health
  
- Support in every day life situations
- More participatory life for people with disabilities (social, educational, ...)
- Longer independent life for elderly people
- Handling demographic change
- ...
  
- But: Gap between expectations and reality!

# Shneiderman's research agenda: Attaining universal usability for web- and other services (2000)

- Technology variety:
  - Support broad range of hardware, software, and network access
  - More users → more difficult to replace technology → more variety
  - pace of technology development
- User diversity:
  - Accommodating users with different skills, knowledge, age, gender, disabilities (visually impaired, motor impairments etc.) literacy, culture, income, ...
  - disabling conditions (mobility, sunlight, noise),
- Gaps in user knowledge:
  - Bridging the gap between what users know and what they need to know.
  - how to begin, what to choose in dialogue boxes, how to handle system crashes,
  - or what to do about viruses
- Today:
  - Responsive design
  - Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)
  - ...

## ...and the future?

- technology variety:
  - Increasing number of interconnected devices
  - One user, many controllers to control many devices
  - Solution:* Device abstraction, semantic, middlewares
- User variety:
  - User group will reflect heterogeneity of society
  - Solution:* personalized and Adaptive user interfaces
- Global availability:
  - Of user interfaces
  - Of user preferences
- Further issues:
  - Social aspects?
  - Technology should be developed for people

# The Global Public Inclusive Infrastructure (GPII)

