



Media Release

London Hydro Launches a New Research LAB in Partnership with Western University

January 24, 2013, London, Ontario - London Hydro has participated in a number of joint projects with Western University and we feel that it's our responsibility to our community and customers to continually investigate new technology and programs that could provide alternative energy sources and environmental benefits for our current and future generations.

"The unique opportunity to set up a Lab within London Hydro and share expertise and learning experiences with Western University, its faculty, post-doctoral fellows and graduate and undergraduate students provides immense opportunities to pool resources and advance the design, development and testing of new technologies," says Vinay Sharma, London Hydro CEO.

The \$1 million state-of-the-art Lab "Watts Lab for Smart Grid and Innovative DG Control Studies" is a unique model of successful collaboration between a university and a local electricity distribution utility. The initial funding provided by London Hydro for several Western research grant proposals has successfully leveraged substantial funds from various Federal and Provincial funding agencies.

"The Watts Lab is an exciting partnership between the energy sector and Western University," says Andrew Hrymak, Dean of Western Engineering. "The Lab offers our students hands-on training in a real-world setting. Our researchers will also benefit from the state-of-the-art equipment and close collaboration with colleagues at London Hydro."

The Lab will be primarily used for designing, developing and testing of enhanced utilization of real power generating capacity of distributed generator (DG) Inverters as Statcom, technology that has been patented by Dr. Rajiv Varma of Western University and London Hydro as a result of this successful research.

The Lab will also be used for other research such as:

- The study of Short Circuit contributions from embedded DGs
- The study of the impact of reconfiguration of feeders – two way communication for dynamic control of embedded DGs
- Conservation: Adaptive control of residential devices
- Real time metering for renewable generation and conservation initiatives
- Smart techniques for charging/discharging of Electric Vehicles

The Lab would not be possible without the funding and in-kind support from our other partners namely, Ontario Centres of Excellence, Bluewater Power, Hydro One, LEDC, German Solar, Testforce, and KACO, we thank all involved for their ongoing involvement and support.

"The Watt's lab exemplifies the critically important role a utility can play in testing, verifying and showcasing academic research," said Dr. Tom Corr, president and CEO of Ontario Centres of Excellence. "Field testing is essential for demonstrating the viability of technology developed in an academic setting. It provides the evidence needed to assure industry that the technology merits commercial development."

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