



# DER Security Considerations to Enable Grid Services

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Sandia National Laboratories

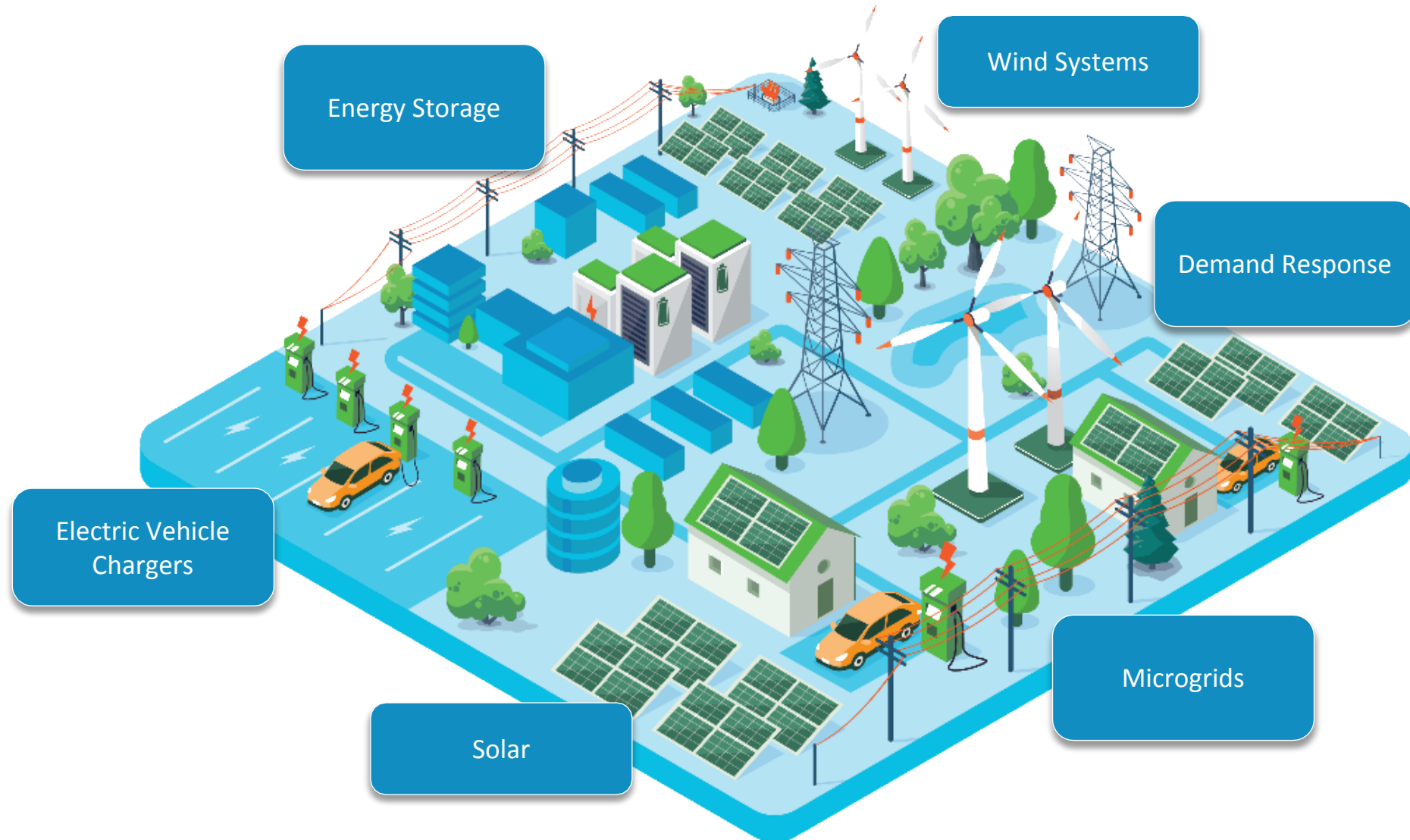
Session: From Smart Grid to Energy Internet -  
Recent Advances in Security and Resilience

Thursday, July 21, 2022

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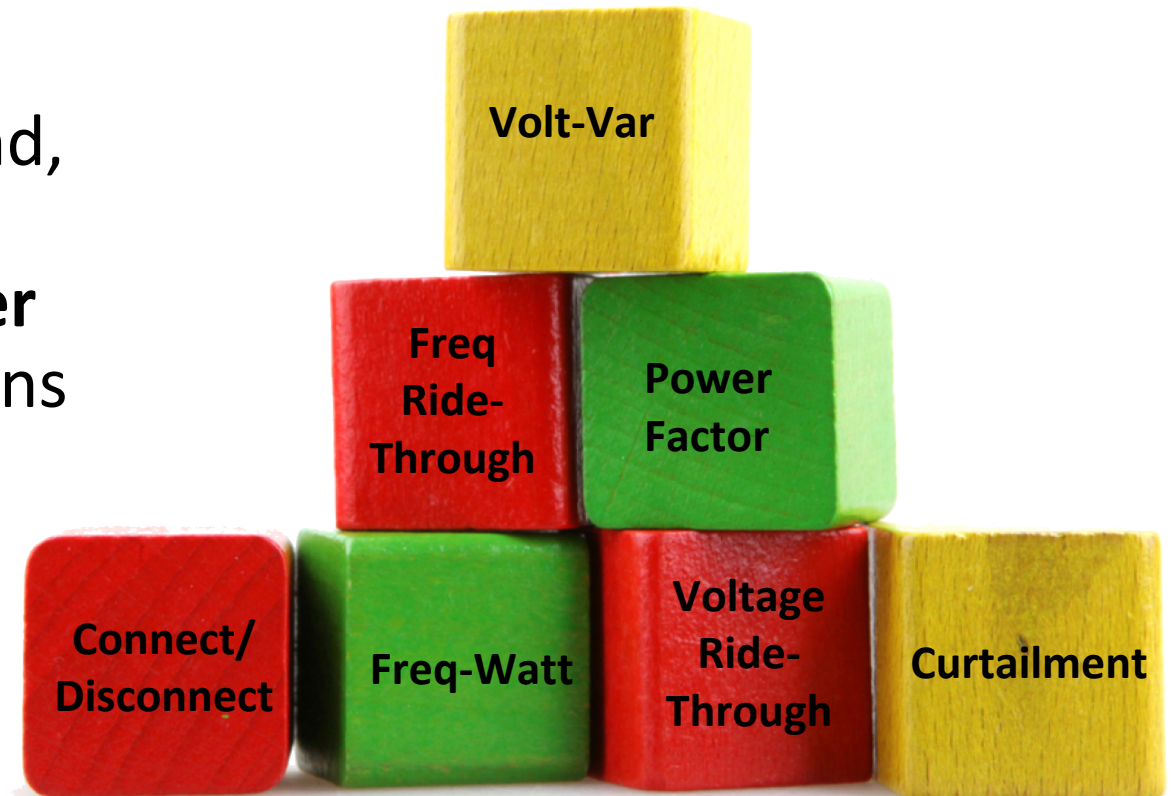


# Grid-Service Participants in the Future Grid



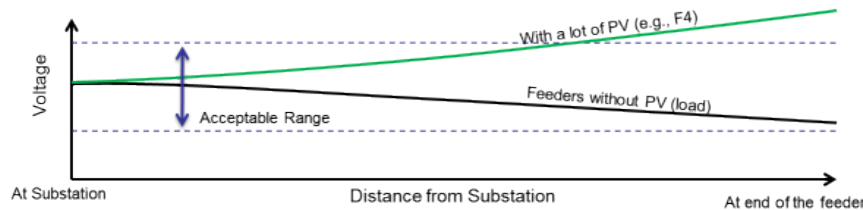
# Utility-Interactive Converters are Smart Grid Building Blocks

Advanced, **interoperable, grid-support functions** for solar, energy storage, wind, and other DER assets **are the building blocks** for an efficient, **optimized power system** which supports high penetrations of renewable energy.

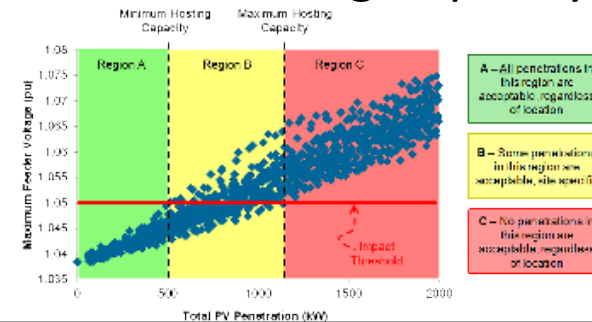


# Grid-support functions = visibility and control

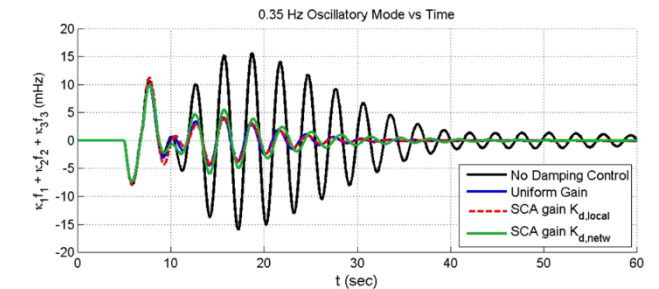
## Distribution Voltage Regulation<sup>1</sup>



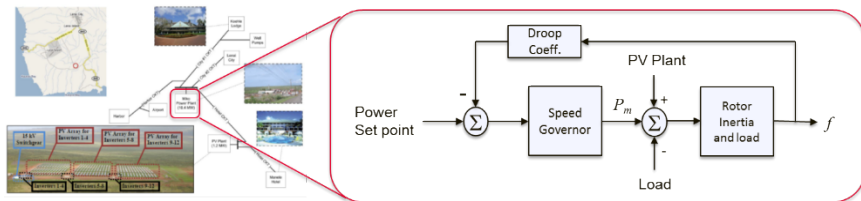
## Feeder Hosting Capacity<sup>2</sup>



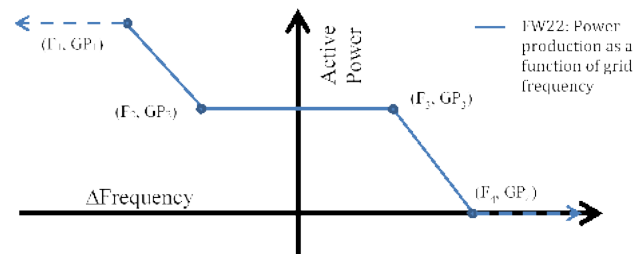
## Wide-Area Damping<sup>3</sup>



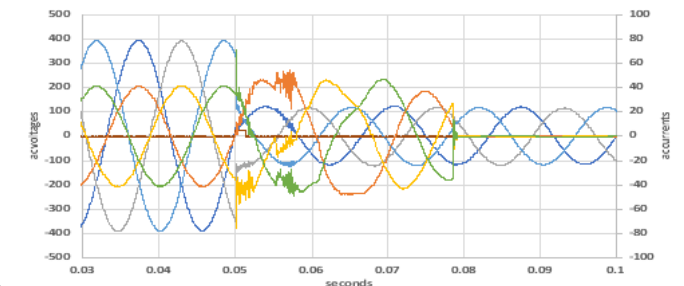
## Frequency Control<sup>4</sup>



## Ancillary Reserves<sup>5</sup>



## Protection Support<sup>6</sup>

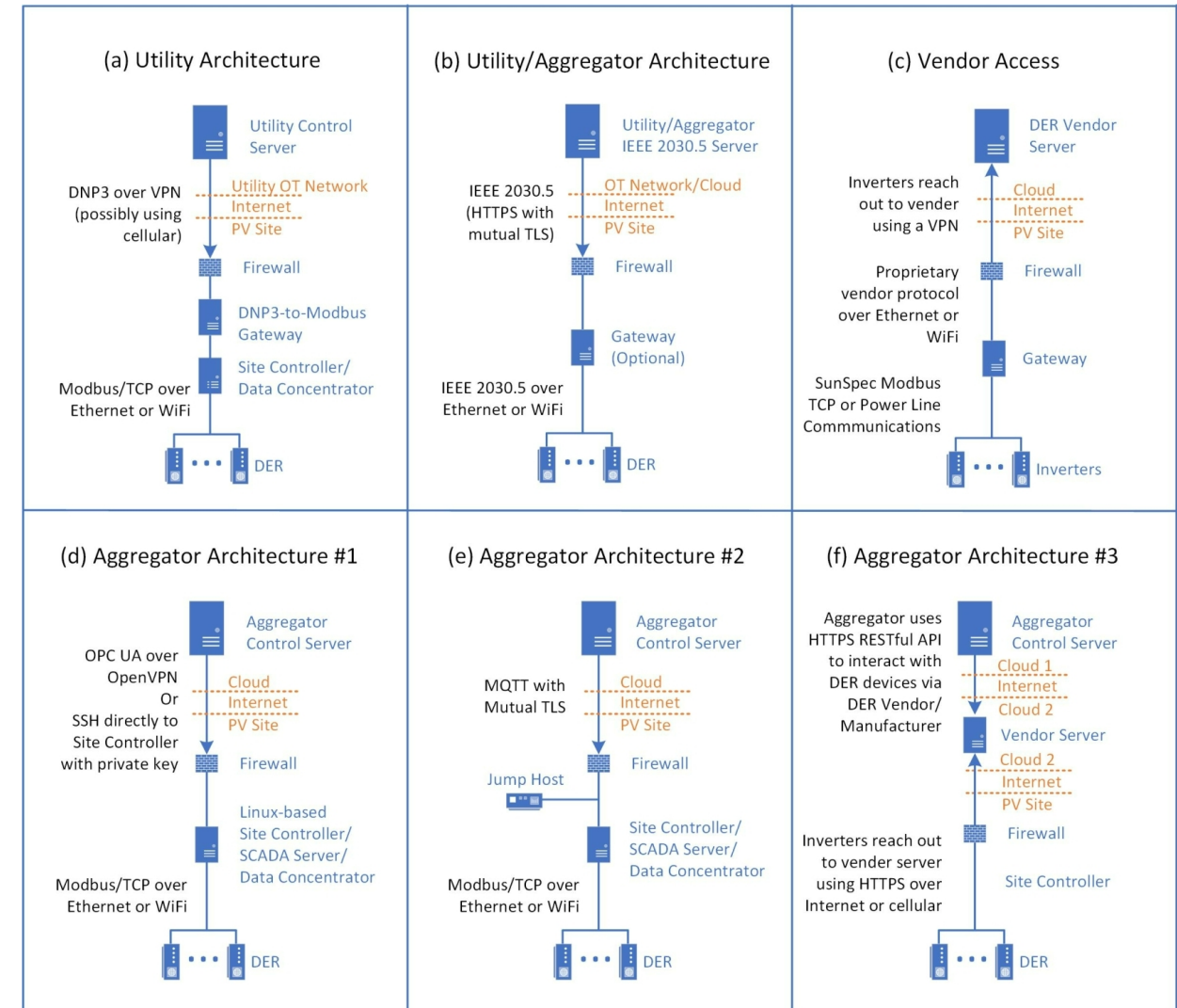


1. J. Seuss, M.J. Reno, R.J. Broderick, R.G. Harley, "Evaluation of reactive power control capabilities of residential PV in an unbalanced distribution feeder," 2014 PVSC, pp. 2094-2099, 8-13 June 2014.
2. M. Rylander J. Smith, "Stochastic Analysis to Determine Feeder Hosting Capacity for Distributed Solar PV," Report 1026640, 31 Dec 2012.
3. J. Neely, J. Johnson, R. Bryne, R. T. Elliott, Structured optimization for parameter selection of frequency-watt grid support functions for wide-area damping, DER Journal, vol. 11, no. 1, pp. 69-94, 2015.
4. J. Neely, S. Gonzalez, J. Delhotal, J. Johnson, M. Lave, Evaluation of PV Frequency-Watt Function for Fast Frequency Reserves, IEEE Applied Power Electronics Conference (APEC), Long Beach, CA, March 20-24, 2016.
5. J. Johnson, J. Neely, J. Delhotal, M. Lave, "Photovoltaic Frequency-Watt Curve Design for Frequency Regulation and Fast Contingency Reserves," IEEE Journal of Photovoltaics, vol. 6, no. 6, pp. 1611-1618, Nov. 2016.
6. S. Gonzalez, N. Gurule, M. J. Reno, J. Johnson, Fault Current Experimental Results of Photovoltaic Inverters Operating with Grid-Support Functionality, 7th World Conference on Photovoltaic Energy Conversion (WCPEC-7), Waikoloa, HI, 10-15 Jun 2018 (submitted).



# Distributed Energy Cybersecurity

- **Challenge:** The power system is rapidly evolving with cloud and internet-connected distributed energy resources (DER)
  - Cybersecurity is paramount for national energy infrastructure.
- Unique risks and hurdles:
  - Customer-owned and 3<sup>rd</sup>-party operated assets in a **non-federated environment**
  - **Rapidly evolving environment with unclear responsibilities**
- DER cybersecurity is inherently different than 'business-as-usual' because:
  - DER often connected to grid operators via **public internet or cellular networks**
  - DER typically have **limited processing capabilities**, so they often do not support many cipher suites or host-based intrusion detection systems (HIDS)



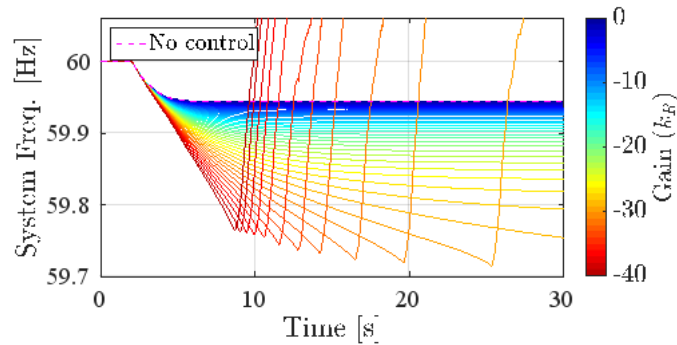
DER Communication Options

# What could possibly go wrong?

## Frequency Droop

$$\Delta P_j = \frac{f_{ref} - f_{eq}}{R} = k_R(f_{ref} - f_{eq})$$

$$\Delta P_j^{attack} = -\frac{f_{ref} - f_{eq}}{R} = -k_R(f_{ref} - f_{eq})$$

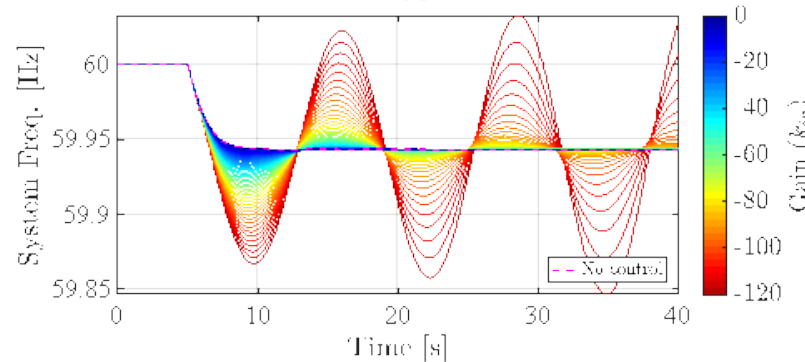
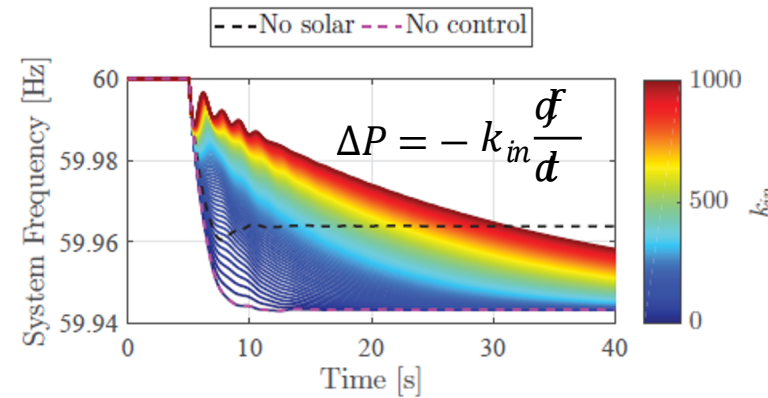


**Attack:** frequency-watt function is inverted to inject power at high frequency and absorb power at low frequency.

**Result:** Lower frequency nadirs, possibly leading to load shedding.

$k_R < -25$  causes loss of synchronism.

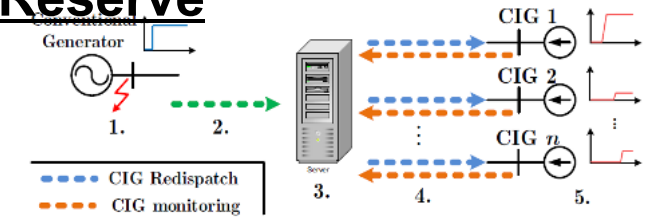
## Synthetic Inertia



**Attack:** reverse sign on inertial gain to create positive feedback.

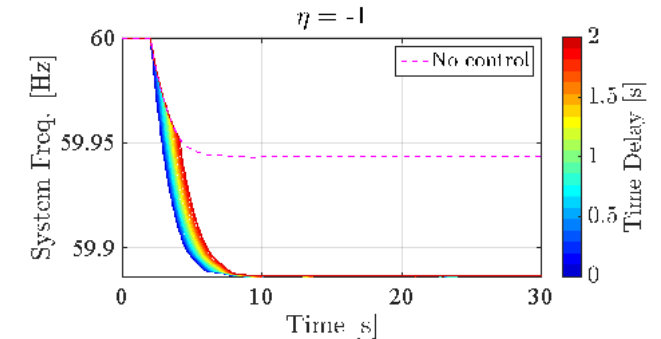
**Result:** Nadir is reduced and oscillatory behavior in the power system is created, leading to instability and possible blackouts.

## Fast Acting Imbalance Reserve



CIG = Converter-Interfaced Generator

$$\Delta P_i = K_{FF}^i P_{imbal} \quad K_{FF}^i = \eta \frac{P_i}{P_{avail}}$$

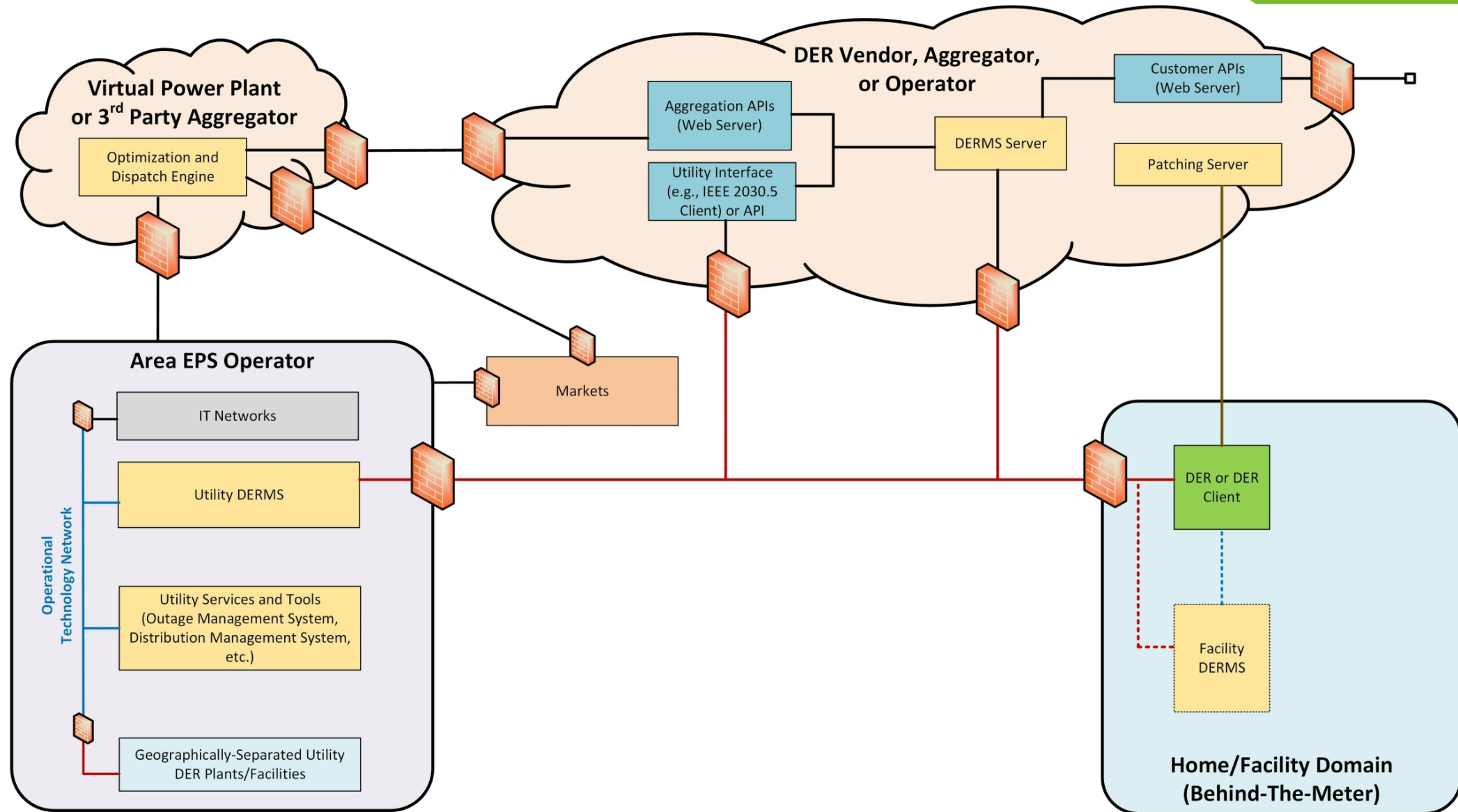


**Attack:** imbalance power compensation level,  $\eta$ , is set to reduce the power by the magnitude of the imbalance. In an attack:  $\eta = -1$ .

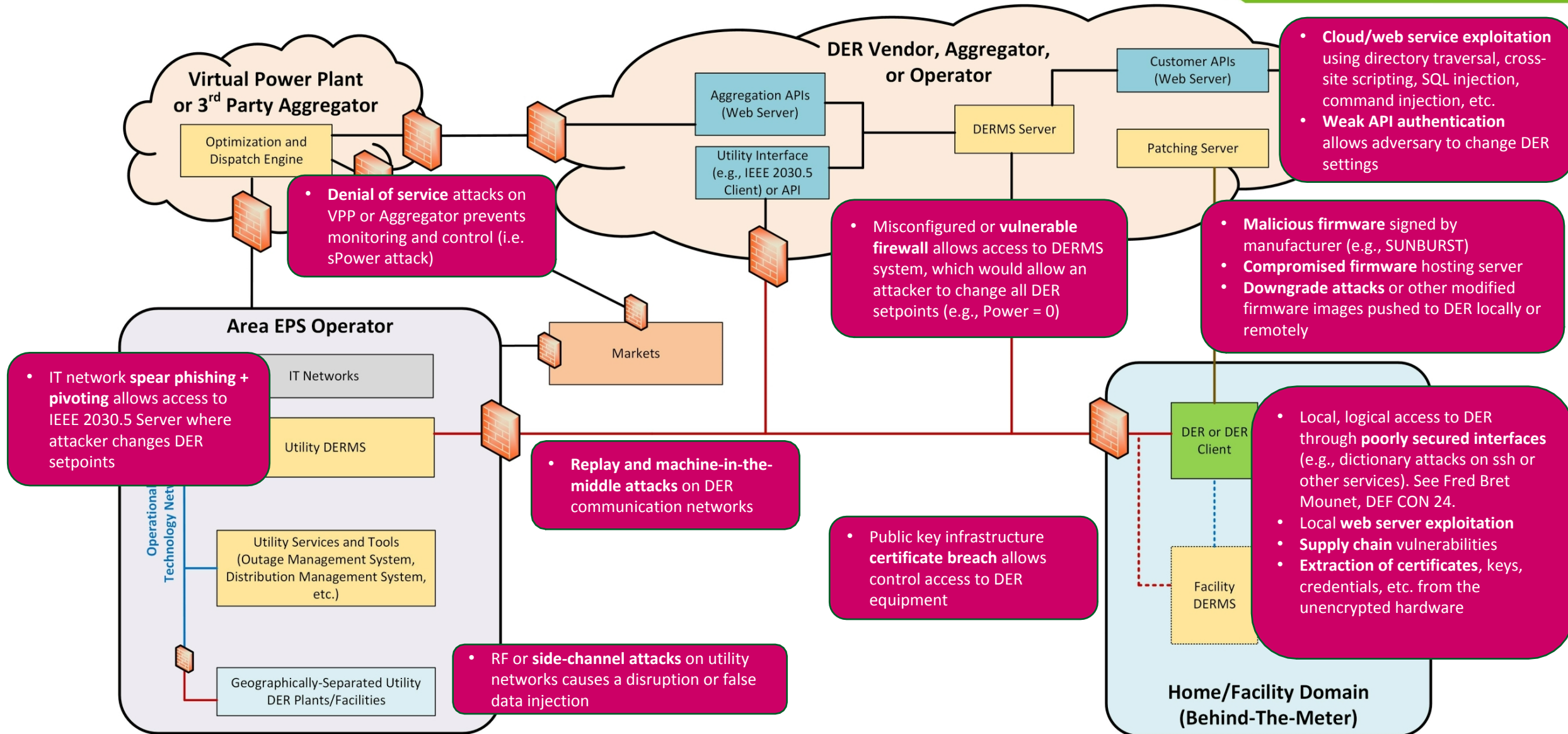
**Result:** Imbalance is worsened, possibly leading to a blackout.



# DER Communications

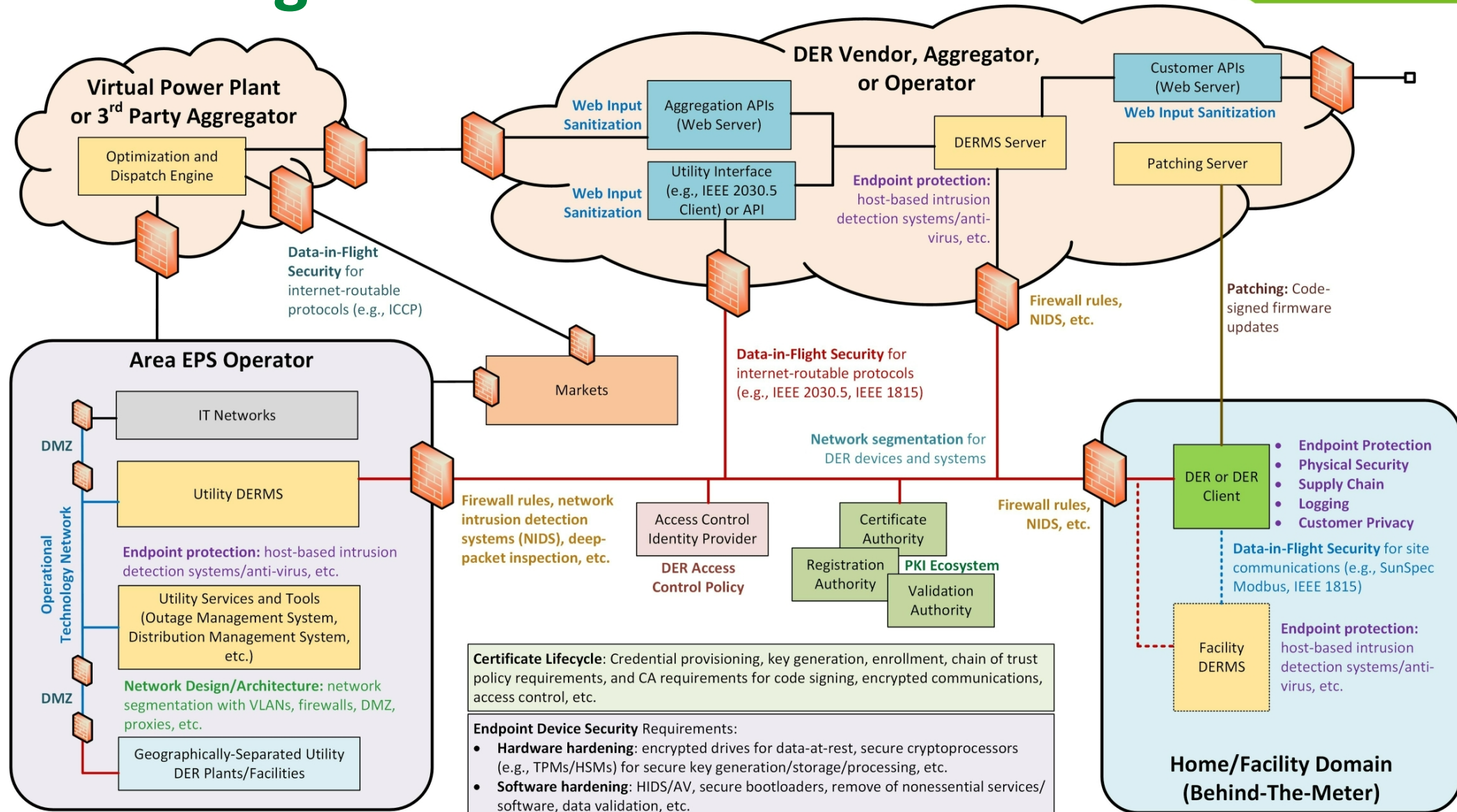


# Potential Threats





# Hardening Recommendations



**Figure 1: A Secure DER System**

The diagram illustrates the architecture of a Secure Distributed Energy Resource (DER) System, showing the integration of various components and the standards/guidelines that inform its security.

**Key Components and Standards:**

- Cloud/Network Layer:**
  - Optimization and Dispatch Engine
  - Web Input Sanitization
  - Patching Server
  - Customer APIs (Web Server)
  - Standards: NIST 800-144 – Guidelines on Security and Privacy in Public **Cloud Computing**; NIST SP 800-210 – General Access Control Guidance for **Cloud Systems**; FIPS 140-2 - Security Requirements for **Cryptographic Modules**
- Data-in-Flight Security:**
  - Standards: IEEE P1547.3 – Draft Guide for Cybersecurity of Distributed Energy Resources Interconnected with Electric Power Systems; EPRI Security Architecture for the Distributed Energy Resources Integration Network: Risk-based Approach for Network Design" EPRI Report 3002016781, October 2019.
  - Guidance: J. Obert, P. Cordeiro, J. Johnson, G. Lum, T. Tansy, M. Pala, R. Ih, "Recommendations for **Trust and Encryption** in DER Interoperability Standards," Sandia Report SAND2019-1490, Feb 2019; I. Onunkwo, "Recommendations for **Data-in-Transit Requirements** for Securing DER Communications," Sandia Report SAND2020-12704, Nov 2020; J. Johnson, I. Hanke, "Recommendations for Distributed Energy Resource **Patching**," Sandia Report SAND2021-11150, September 2021; IEC TR 62443-2-3:2015 - Patching
- Operational Technology (OT) and IT Networks:**
  - IT Networks
  - Utility
  - Markets
  - Standards: NERC CIP; NIST SP 800-41 Rev 1 – Guidelines on **Firewalls** and Firewall Policy; IEC 62443 Series
- Access Control and Authentication:**
  - Standards: J. Johnson, "Recommendations for Distributed Energy Resource **Access Control**," Sandia Report SAND2021-0977, Jan 2021; IEC TR 62351-8:2020 - RBAC
  - Guidance: NIST 800-57 Pt 2 Rev 1: **Key Management**; FPKI Overlay to NIST SP 800-53 Cybersecurity; IEC 62351-9:2017 – Cyber security **key management** for power system equipment; NIST SP 1800-16 - Securing Web Transactions **TLS Server Certificate Management**
- Device-Level Security:**
  - Assorted device-level guidance: J. Johnson, et al. "Review of **Electric Vehicle Charger** Cybersecurity Vulnerabilities, Potential Impacts, and Defenses," Energies, vol. 15, no. 11, p. 3931, May 2022.
- Standards and Guidelines (Various Green Boxes):**
  - NIST RMF, NIST CSF, and NIST 800-82 - Security and Privacy Controls for Information Systems and Organizations
  - J. Johnson, et al., "Design and Evaluation of a **Secure Virtual Power Plant**," Sandia Report, SAND2017-10177, September 2017.
  - IEEE 1686 – Standard for Intelligent Electronic Devices Cyber Security Capabilities
  - NIST SP 800-92 – Guide to Computer Security Log Management
  - NIST SP 800-94 – Guide to **Intrusion Detection and Prevention Systems (IDPS)**
  - NIST SP 800-82 Rev. 3 – Guide to **Operational Technology (OT) Security**
  - IEC 62351 Series
  - IEEE 1815-2012 SA v5 and SA v6
  - IEEE 2030.5 and CSIP
  - Modbus/TCP Security
  - Endpoint protection: host-based intrusion detection systems (anti-virus, etc.)
  - Endpoint protection: network firewalls, DMZ, proxies, etc.
  - Geographically-Separated DER Plants/Facilities
  - Certificate Lifecycle: Credential policy requirements, and CA requirements, etc.
  - Security Requirements: encryption for secure communication; HIDS/AIDS; etc.



# Join the conversation!

## SunSpec/Sandia DER Cybersecurity

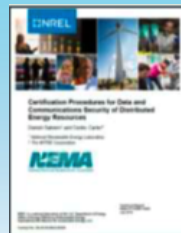
Workgroup was founded in Aug 2017

- **1,700+ DER and cybersecurity experts**
- Two programmatic tracks:
  - Educational: monthly webinar series
  - Technical: generate best practices for national/international cyber standards
- **Impact**: DER cyber guide, IEEE 1547.3, was balloted with verbatim recommendations from several of the technical subgroup reports.
- Recommendations leverage by state regulators (NASEO/NARUC Cybersecurity Advisory Team).
- Funded through 3 DOE SETO cybersecurity projects

## Webinars by



## Technical Publications



### DER Cybersecurity Certified Procedure

Lead: Danish Saleem (NREL) and Cedric Carter (MITRE)



### Secure Network Architecture

Lead: Candace Suh-Lee (EPRI)



### Patching Requirements

Lead: Jay Johnson (Sandia), Ingo Hanke (SMA)



### Data-in-Flight Requirements

Lead: Ifeoma Onunkwo (Sandia)



### Access Control

Lead: Jay Johnson (Sandia)

### DER System Security Evaluation Tool

Lead: Steve Bukowski (INL), Jay Johnson (Sandia)

# Learn More - Educational Webinar Program

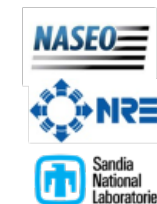


## 2021 Webinar Series

- 1/21/21 – **Cybersecurity Advisory Group for State Solar (CATSS) Brief** – *NASEO*
- 2/25/21 – **Overview of IEEE 1547.3: A Guide for Cybersecurity of DER Interconnected with Electric Power Systems** – *NPR Associates and Xanthus Consulting International*
- 3/25/21 – **Conceptualizing Systems Cybersecurity Challenges for Rooftop Solar** – *DOE SETO*
- 4/22/21 – **Securing the Industrial Internet of Things: Cybersecurity for DER** – *NIST NCCoE*
- 5/27/21 – **An Industrial Cybersecurity Perspective** – *Dragos*
- 6/24/21 – **Centralized vs Decentralized DER Role-Based Access Control Implementation** – *UNM*
- 7/22/21 – **Software Vulnerabilities (Software Bill of Materials – Transparency in the Software Supply Chain; Longclaw – Firmware Analysis Framework; Next Generation Firmware Analysis for Energy Systems)** – *USDC NTIA, LLNL, SNL*
- 8/26/21 – **Cyber-Physical Intrusion Detection/Mitigation System** – *SNL*
- 9/14/21 – **Zero Trust Security for Distributed Energy Resources** – *Xage*
- 9/23/21 – **DER Incident Response** – *FireEye/Madiant*
- 10/28/21 – **Historical Public Key Infrastructure Failures** – *Tufts University*
- 11/18/21 – **CyTRICS: Cyber Testing for Resilient Industrial Control Systems** – *INL & DOE-CESER*
- 12/8/21 – **Cybersecurity Manufacturing Innovation Institute (CyManII)** – *UTSA*

## 2022 Webinar Series

- 1/27/22 – **Cybersecurity Risk Management for DERs** – *NREL*
- 2/25/22 – **Solar Inverter Risks and Defenses from Power Electronics Hardware Attacks** – *University of Arkansas*
- 3/24/22 – **Cryptographic, Protected Processors for DER Authentication, Control, Measurement, and Attestation** – *Trusted Computing Group (TCG)*
- 4/28/22 – **SunSpec Cybersecurity Certification for IEEE® 2030.5™ Client Gateways** – *SunSpec Alliance*
- 5/26/22 – **Defending America's Rural Electrical Grids: How to work with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Threat Analysis Center** – *NRECA*
- 6/23/22 – **Network Traffic Analysis with Malcolm** – *INL*
- 7/28/22 – **Integrated Cyber Risk Management for DER and EV Charger Supply Chains** – *Fortress Information Security*
- ...



See the videos: <https://sunspec.org/sunspec-cybersecurity-videos/>

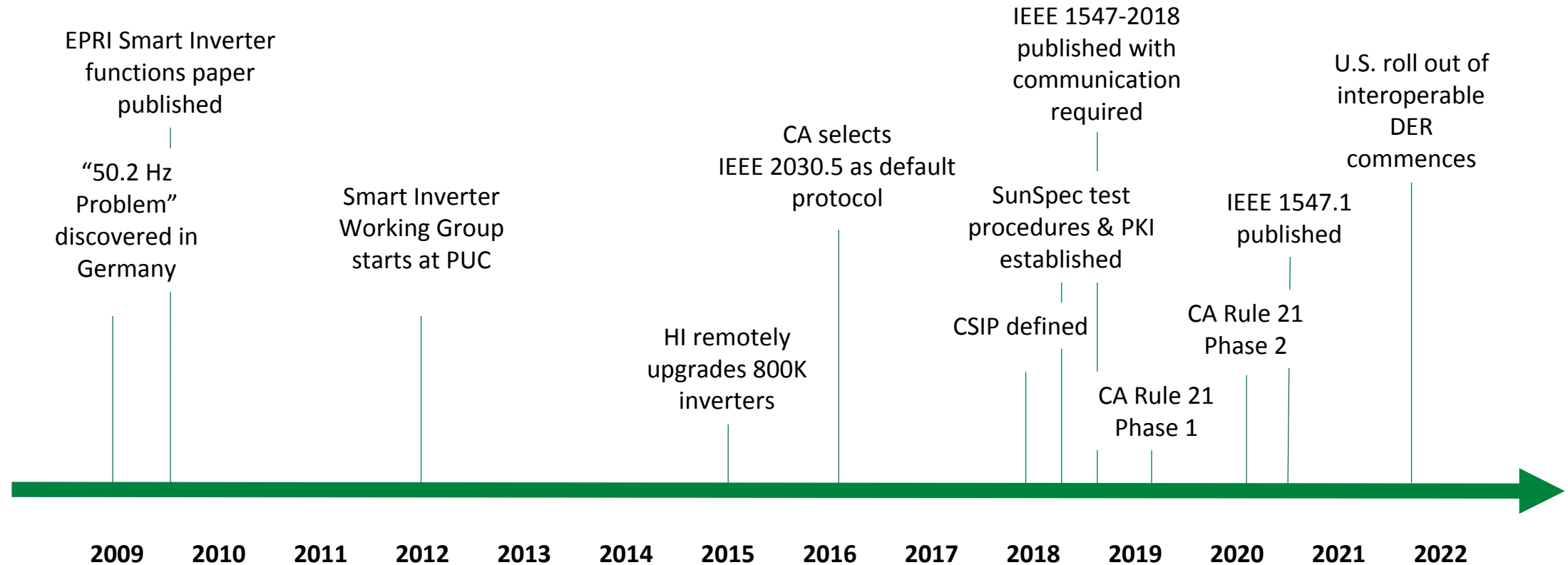


# Contact

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# Market Trends Driving DER Cybersecurity



Hawaii Rule 14H



# DER Cybersecurity Workgroup Activities



## SunSpec/Sandia DER Cybersecurity Workgroup



### DER Cybersecurity Certification Procedure

- Defined standardized procedure for DER vulnerability assessments.
- **Leads: Danish Saleem (NREL) and Cedric Carter (MITRE)**
- Publication: *"Certification Procedures for Data and Communications Security of Distributed Energy Resources"*
- Future work: Expected development within UL 2900-2-4 STP



### Secure Network Architecture

- Created DER reference architecture best practice.
- **Lead: Candace Suh-Lee (EPRI)**
- Publication: *"EPRI Security Architecture for the Distributed Energy Resources Integration Network: Risk-based Approach for Network Design"*
- Included in IEEE P1547.3 Draft. Future work unknown.



### Data-in-Flight

- Encryption, authentication, and key management requirements.
- **Lead: Ifeoma Onunkwo (Sandia)**
- Publication: *"Recommendations for Trust and Encryption in DER Interoperability Standards"*, another covering Data-in-Transit Requirements document.
- Included in IEEE P1547.3 Draft. Future work unknown.



### Access Control

- DER Role-Based Access Control recommendations.
- **Lead: Jay Johnson (Sandia)**
- Topics: Access control taxonomy and security models
- Planned: *"Recommendations for Distributed Energy Resource Access Controls"*
- Included in IEEE P1547.3 Draft. Future work unknown.



### Patching

- Establishing patching guidelines for DER devices and DER networking equipment.
- **Lead: Ingo Hanke (SMA), Jay Johnson (Sandia)**
- Publication: *"Certification Procedures for Data and Communications Security of Distributed Energy Resources"*
- Included in IEEE P1547.3 Draft. Future work unknown.



### DER System Security Evaluations

- Creating recommended auditing/assessment practices for DER systems and adding these recommendations to the DHS CISA Cyber Security Evaluation Tool (CSET).
- **Started Jan 2022. Leads: Steve Bukowski (INL), Jay Johnson (Sandia)**
- Topics: Step-by-step auditing procedure for internal or external compliance review.

**Convening!**

### Related SunSpec Activity: SunSpec Cybersecurity Certification Workgroup

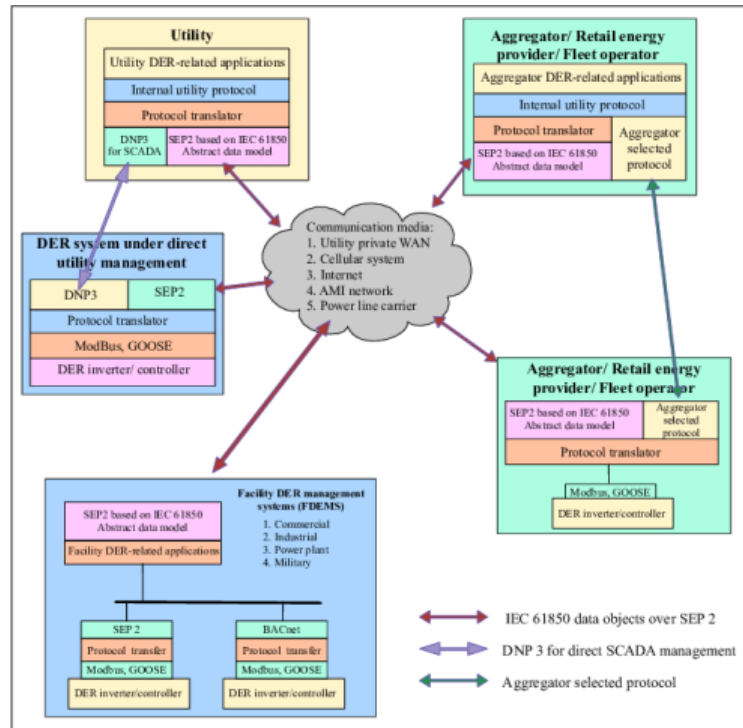
- Establishing voluntary DER/client cybersecurity certification test protocol.
- **Lead: Jörg Brakensiek (Wivity)**

### Related SunSpec Activity: Blockchain Workgroup

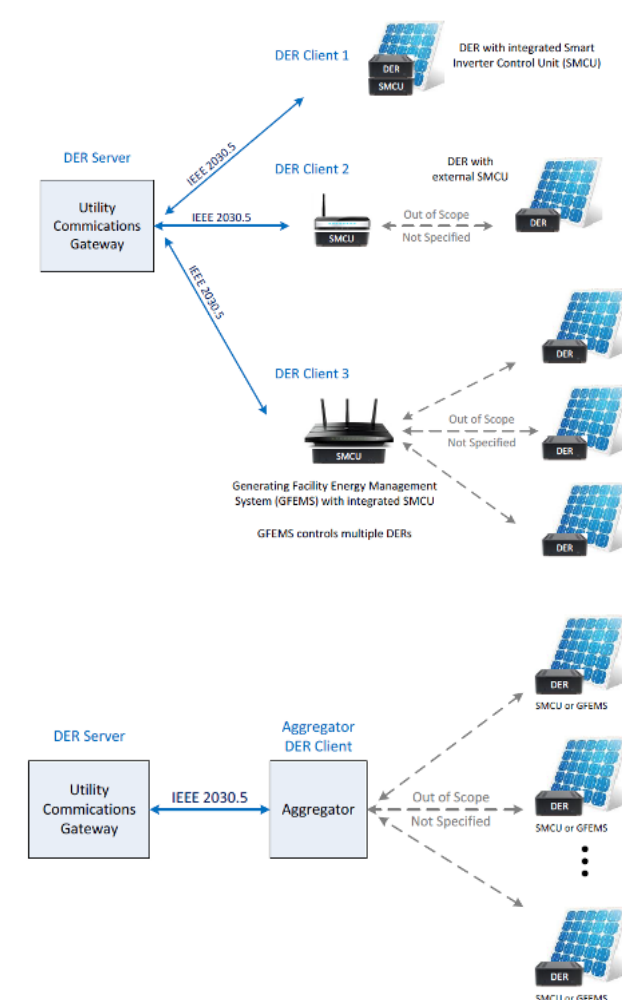
- Defined requirements and specifications for using blockchain to ensure the security of private keys in DER manufacturing environments.
- **Lead: Jörg Brakensiek (Wivity) and Alfred Tom (Wivity)**



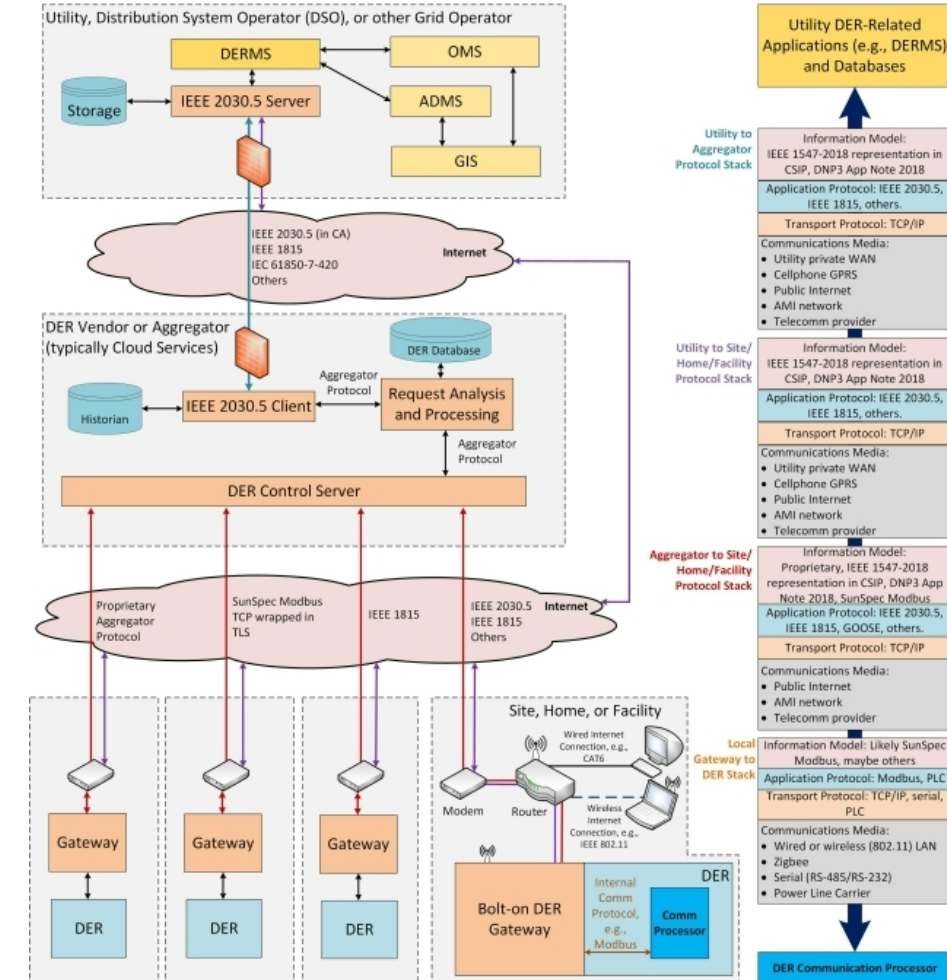
# DER Comms: A new power system attack vector



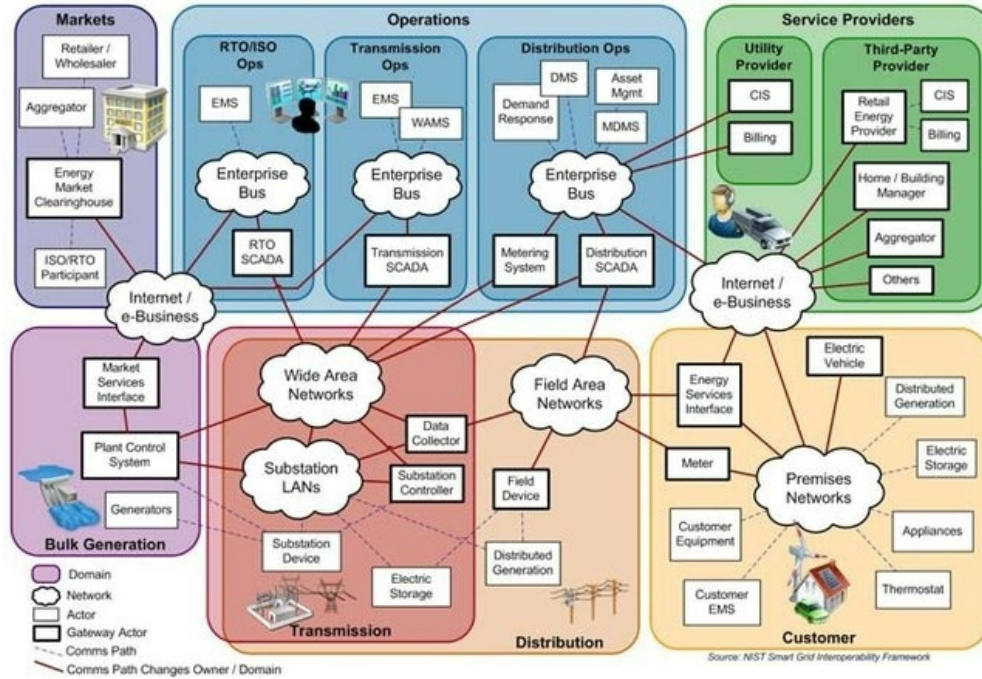
A. Nagarajan, B. Palmintier, M. Baggu, Advanced inverter functions and communication protocols for distribution management, 2016.



Common Smart Inverter Profile Implementation Guide v2.1, March 2018.

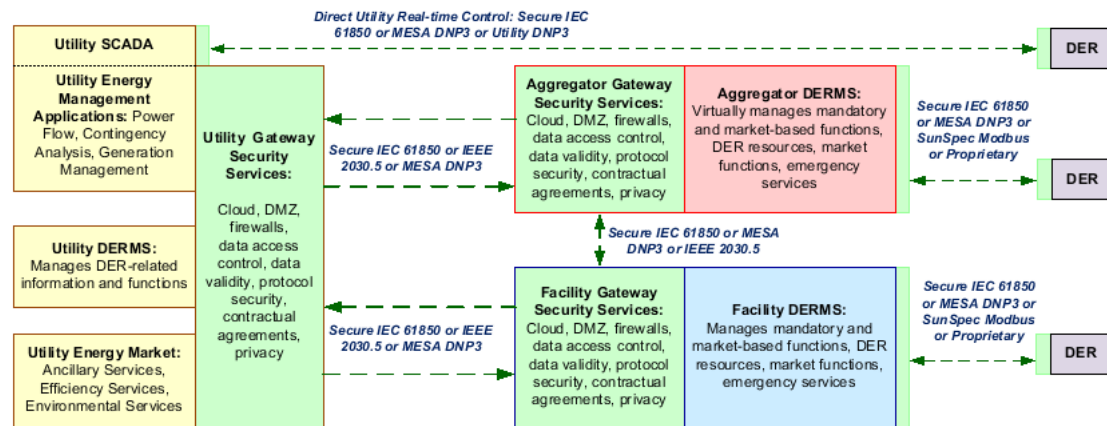


I. Onunkwo, SAND2020-12704

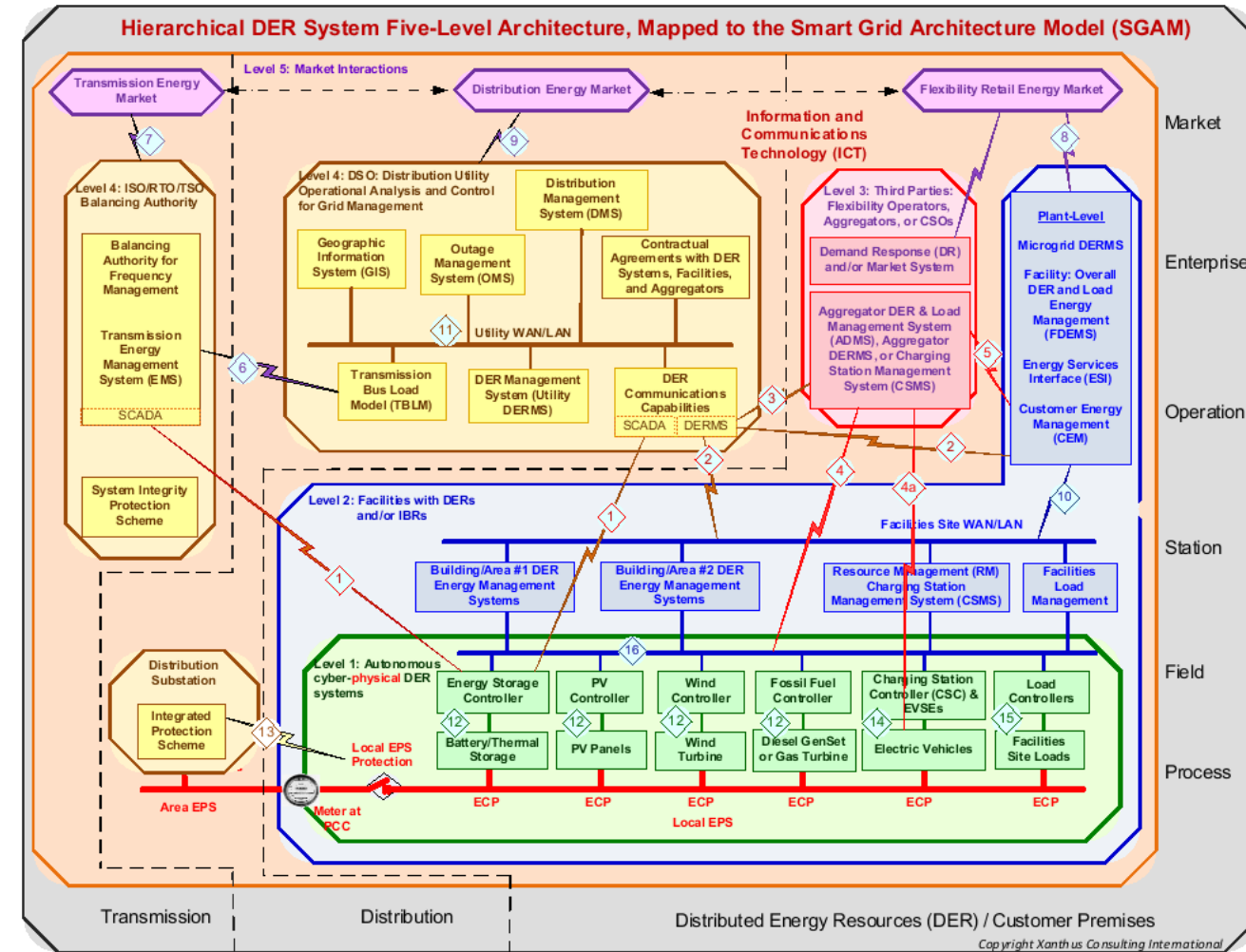


NIST Special Publication 1108, NIST Framework and Roadmap for Smart Grid Interoperability Standards, Release 1.0.

#### Utility-DER Security Architecture, with Gateways for Enhanced Security and Privacy between Different Organizations



From the IEEE 1547.3 Draft



From the IEEE 1547.3 Draft