USEA Strengthens Energy Security in Albania Through OT Cybersecurity Initiative

The United States Energy Association advanced Albania's energy security by implementing a cutting-edge OT cybersecurity project with OST, the national transmission operator, protecting critical infrastructure from digital threats. With support from Catalisto, an American company, the initiative provided real-time monitoring, risk mitigation tools, and workforce training, fortifying Albania's grid and aligning it with regional and European energy security goals.

The United States Energy Association (USEA) played a pivotal role in enhancing Albania's energy security by supporting a major cybersecurity initiative with the country's national electricity transmission operator, OST. Through the successful implementation of the Operational Technology (OT) Sensor Implementation Project, USEA safeguarded critical energy infrastructure from cyber threats – recognizing that cybersecurity is now inseparable from energy security in today's digitized grid environment.

In light of the growing risks to operational technology systems in the energy sector, USEA partnered with OST to deploy a sensor-based monitoring system that improves real-time visibility across the utility's OT network. These sensors are integrated with OST's existing infrastructure and are designed to securely forward data to a future national Security Operations Center (SOC). The SOC is a central component of Albania's evolving cybersecurity framework.

USEA enlisted the support of the U.S.-based cybersecurity firm Catalisto to lead the deployment and ensure that the solution met rigorous operational and technical standards. Catalisto also guided the development of policies and procedures to help OST independently manage and expand its cybersecurity capabilities – without relying on ongoing external assistance.

The project produced critical outcomes that directly support energy security in Albania, including enhanced situational awareness through continuous OT network monitoring, a digital asset inventory system to track vulnerabilities and prioritize risk mitigation, a structured action plan to address threats, operational protocols to maintain system integrity, and extensive workforce training to ensure that OST personnel can sustain and expand the system over time.

The initiative increases OST's ability to detect, assess, and respond to cyber threats. This bolsters the resilience of Albania's power transmission system against disruption, supporting national energy security objectives and strengthening the country's readiness to integrate with broader regional and European energy networks.

This successful collaboration showcases USEA's commitment to strengthening energy security and helping partners, such as Albania, develop the modern, resilient infrastructure needed to meet future energy demands.