The United States Energy Association (USEA) is an association of public and private energy-related organizations, corporations, and government agencies. USEA represents the broad interest of the U.S. energy sector by increasing the understanding of energy issues, both domestically and internationally.

With the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), USEA sponsors international energy programs. USEA has organized over 100 volunteer programs between U.S. utilities and regulatory commissions and their counterparts in developing countries and emerging economies. Through these programs, U.S. energy executives have donated their time and shared their expertise and business “best practices” to other nations.

USEA applauds this spirit of volunteerism and created the International Volunteer Recognition Program to recognize outstanding individuals and organizations for their contributions to USEA activities. The International Volunteer Recognition Program highlights the extraordinary contributions of the U.S. energy industry to support U.S. government initiatives, demonstrate global corporate and social responsibilities, and contribute to worldwide sustainable development.

**2022 AWARDS**

**USEA CORPORATE VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENTS**

*Energy Exemplar*

*Peak Load Management Alliance (PLMA)*

**USEA INTERNATIONAL PARTNER OF THE YEAR**

*NPC Ukrenergo*

**USEA INDIVIDUAL ENERGY VOLUNTEER RECIPIENT**

*Andy Bochman, Idaho National Laboratory*
ENERGY EXEMPLAR

USEA is honored to recognize Energy Exemplar with the Corporate Volunteer of the Year Award for 2022.

Energy Exemplar is the global leader in energy market simulation technology. Its PLEXOS software suite is used by a large share of the world’s top energy market stakeholders in over 60 countries. PLEXOS is used to digitally replicate real-world energy markets to deliver crucial forecasts for projects spanning short-term analysis to long-term planning studies. The software informs trading, generation scheduling, capacity expansion and market analysis across electric, water and gas industries. Headquartered in Adelaide, South Australia, Energy Exemplar has offices worldwide.

USEA is proudly in partnership with Energy Exemplar to develop a regional natural gas optimization model for 12 Eastern European transmission system operators stretching from Poland to Greece under the USAID/USEA Eastern Europe Natural Gas Partnership (EE-NGP). Energy Exemplar provided each EE-NGP member with four-month trial licenses of PLEXOS as well as extensive training on its use.

Once complete, the PLEXOS regional market optimization model will merge with the EE-NGP hydraulic model to examine how a north-south corridor connecting the natural gas resources of the Baltic, Black, Mediterranean and Aegean Seas can reduce the region’s dependence on Russian gas. With this assistance, EE-NGP members will build capacity to forecast least cost investments in natural gas infrastructure necessary to diversify supply and increase energy security in Eastern Europe.

Energy Exemplar’s support for this project is the largest cost share ever provided by a single company to the USAID/USEA Energy Technology and Governance Program. This award recognizes that spirit of corporate citizenship and the impact of Energy Exemplar’s support in Eastern Europe.
PEAK LOAD MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE (PLMA)

USEA is honored to recognize the contributions of the Peak Load Management Alliance (PLMA) for the support provided to the Energy Utility Partnership Program (EUPP).

PLMA, a member-led nonprofit organization, was founded in 1999 as the voice of load management practitioners. Today, PLMA has over 150 member organizations, including private and publicly owned utilities, technology companies, energy and energy solution providers, equipment manufacturers, research and academic organizations, and consultants.

As U.S. and global energy markets evolve, PLMA strives to offer timely programming and training opportunities, as well as a forum for its member practitioners to share expertise in dynamic load management, demand response, and distributed energy resources. Member practitioners share their knowledge, experience, and ideas with the goal of educating one another on a range of topics. These topics span load management programs, price and rate response, regional regulatory issues, technologies, and much more.

Several PLMA experts have been more than generous in providing their expert input and guidance to EUPP activities. Currently, PLMA is assisting in structuring and identifying speakers for the EUPP webinar series on Energy Management for Utilities as well as present at the first webinar in the series.

PLMA member experts have participated in a number of other events, such as:

- Online Colombia Renewable Energy Integration course for young professionals
- Workshops in Colombia on Battery Storage, Energy for Colombia’s Peace Zones, and Smart Meters
- ASOCODIS Congress in Colombia
- Side-Mission to XM
- ANDI Workshop
- Technical assistance on Smart Meters

An instrumental part of the success of the EUPP work in Colombia has been the ability to meet with officials from Colombian government organizations and the system operator to discuss and provide input for critical operating issues, including a battery storage tender. PLMA has been a part of many of those high-level meetings providing their insight and guidance.

USEA looks forward to our continued cooperation with PLMA and their support to the Energy Utility Partnership Program.
NPC UKRENERGO

This award recognizes the extraordinary contributions of individuals and organizations for their contributions to USEA activities.

USEA is honored to recognize NPC Ukrenergo as International Partner of the Year for 2022.

NPC Ukrenergo is the transmission system operator of Ukraine, certified in accordance with the ISO model under the standards of the EU’s Third Energy Package. NPC Ukrenergo performs the functions of operational and technological control of the Integrated Power System of Ukraine, as well as electricity transmission by trunk power grids from generation to distribution networks. In the Ukrainian electricity market, NPC Ukrenergo performs the functions of Commercial Metering Administrator and Settlements Administrator.

NPC Ukrenergo ensures: balancing of electricity generation and consumption and the power system capacity in real time; operation and development of trunk and interstate power grids; parallel operation of the Ukrainian power system with the Continental European power network ENTSO-E; and technical capability of exporting/importing electricity to/from European countries.

Beginning on March 16, 2022, the Ukrainian power system has been operating jointly with the power network of ENTSO-E Continental Europe. On April 26, 2022, NPC Ukrenergo received the status of an Observer Member at ENTSO-E.

USEA has proudly partnered with NPC Ukrenergo for more than 20 years to improve its planning and operational practices, consistent with European network standards. In April 2022, amid the invasion of Ukraine, NPC Ukrenergo achieved its long-time goal and successfully completed integration of its network with the synchronous network operated by the members of the European Network of Transmission System Operators of Electricity, ENTSO-E. The synchronous connection with ENTSO-E enables Europe to provide much needed grid support to Ukraine during these challenging times. In the long term, the synchronous connection will enable Ukraine to integrate with European wholesale electricity markets, export carbon free electricity from its nuclear power generation fleet, and import clean electricity from European suppliers.

NPC Ukrenergo is a charter member of the seven nation USAID/USEA Black Sea Transmission Planning Project (BSTP), founded in 2004 with the signing of the Sofia Memorandum of Understanding. With NPC Ukrenergo’s support, the BSTP created and has updated the region’s first integrated transmission network planning model. This BSTP model provided the foundation for the recently completed feasibility study that led to the synchronization of the Ukraine network with the ENTSO-E grid. Through the BSTP, NPC Ukrenergo staff participated in tens of thousands of hours of network planning training and modeling exercises. Members of NPC Ukrenergo’s management team are participants and alumni of the BSTP.

The work that NPC Ukrenergo and its staff have done—and continue to do—to provide energy security to the people of Ukraine under the most challenging of circumstances deserves special recognition.
USEA INDIVIDUAL ENERGY VOLUNTEER RECIPIENT

ANDY BOCHMAN
Senior Grid Strategist, National & Homeland Security, Idaho National Laboratory

USEA is honored to recognize Mr. Andy Bochman for his contributions to the Energy Utility Partnership Program (EUPP).

Idaho National Laboratory (INL) is part of the U.S. Department of Energy’s complex of national laboratories. The laboratory performs work in each of the strategic goal areas of DOE: energy, national security, science and environment. INL is the nation’s laboratory for nuclear energy research and development.

Andy provides strategic guidance on topics at the intersection of grid security and infrastructure resilience and adaption to senior U.S. and international government and industry leaders. A Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council’s Global Energy Center, in 2021 he published his first book: Countering Cyber Sabotage: Introducing Consequence-based Cyber-Informed Engineering. Andy began his career as a comms officer in the US Air Force, and prior to joining INL was a Senior Advisor at the Chertoff Group and the Energy Security Lead at IBM. Mr. Bochman received a BS from the U.S. Air Force Academy and an MA in Biology & Environmental Management from Harvard University.

Andy was instrumental to the success of the Energy Utility Partnership Program’s (EUPP) Cybersecurity and Digitalization Webinar Series to educate utilities on cyber standards, trends, and best practices.

Additionally, he supported the EUPP by:

- Presenting at the series’ fifth webinar on Corporate Culture and the Importance of Cyber Hygiene, discussing how cybersecurity culture in the utility workforce plays a critical role in reducing cyber vulnerabilities.
- Moderated two additional cybersecurity industry panels on Energy Sector Cyber Threats, Intrusion Detection & Testing and Cyber Risk Management Through Measurement with leading cybersecurity experts to discuss the latest cybersecurity trends, tools, and technologies.

Andy further assisted USEA’s cybersecurity work by hosting a webinar on lessons learned from EUPP’s online cybersecurity course and how participant utilities plan to implement cyber best practices in their own organizations. Lastly, Andy moderated a virtual workshop for the energy sector in Uganda to share knowledge and best practices on implementing cybersecurity with participants from the online course.

Andy’s expertise and charisma has been an invaluable asset to USEA we and we look forward to his continued support of the EUPP.
USEA ENERGY VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

Paul S. Stack, USAID; William Polen, USEA; Natalia Fominykh, USEA; Volodymyr Kudrytskyi, CEO of NPC Ukrenergo; Sheila Hollis, USEA, and Steven S. Burns, USAID

Cybersecurity and Digitalization Industry Panel
Moderator

Andy Bochman
Senior Grid Strategist
Idaho National Laboratory

Scott Coe of PLMA presenting a the ASOCODIS Annual Meeting
USEA ENERGY VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

Ekaterina Danylkova, NPC Ukrenergo; Natalia Fominyk, USEA; William Polen, USEA; Mikhail Bno-Airiyan, NPC Ukrenergo; Denys Shmyhal (pictured in 2019 when serving as General Director of Burshtyn TPP), now Prime Minister of Ukraine.

Denys Shmyhal, Prime Minister of Ukraine (pictured in 2019 when serving as General Director of Burshtyn TPP); William Polen, USEA; Mikhail Bno-Airiyan, NPC Ukrenergo.
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