



Greetings!

Communication networks conforming to the IEEE 1547-2018 standard will be built starting in 2020. Once in operation, the cybersecurity of these networks will emerge as a top priority for stakeholders.

With this in mind, I recently participated in the S4 Conference in Miami, a gathering of experts focused on securing Industrial Control Systems (ICS). At S4, I both listened intently and presented what the SunSpec Alliance has learned while building the security infrastructure for data communication networks to interconnect Distributed Energy Resources (DER) to the California grid.

After hearing from an impressive lineup of speakers from ICS implementers (BP), networking companies (Cisco) and corporate risk assessment firms (Moody's), I couldn't help but be impressed by the vast reservoir of knowledge that is available to us in the DER industry.

Here are a couple of things that stuck with me:

The vast majority of ICS security exploits start as some type of internet "phishing" campaign aimed at workers or vendors of the targeted organization.

The current rate of vulnerability discovery in ICS networks outstrips industry's ability to correct these vulnerabilities by about a 10 to 1 margin.

In my opinion, these are key disadvantages of ICS environments relative to DER. Because of DER's defining attributes (small, distributed, remotely managed, "fuel less"), networks of DER systems can cover much larger geographic areas and have far fewer people available for exploitation than comparably sized centralized energy generators served by ICS. This means that DER can be significantly less exposed at the point of exploit (fewer people = lower phishing risk), better protected at the network level, and more secure overall.

Given SunSpec's deep collaboration with the state of California, another area of technical focus is how to make the grid more resilient by establishing microgrids that incorporate DER with secure networks. If you are interested to learn more about this fascinating topic, please consider joining us on [February 25, 2020 at the Long Beach Convention Center for the California Energy Commission sponsored EPIC Forum](#). As the brochure states, "we will explore lessons learned in the wake of sudden disaster and showcase technological solutions aimed at reinforcing the grid." SunSpec's talk

will describe projects where we validated the capabilities of seven smart inverter brands and built a network of IEEE 2030.5-based solar+storage systems in the Southern California Edison grid.

Finally, if your company is interested in driving standards in any of the areas SunSpec works in, please consider joining a SunSpec Work Group. You can find out more about how to participate by continuing to read the article below.

With kind regards,



Tom Tansy  
Chairman  
SunSpec Alliance



## **Introducing SunSpec Modbus Support for IEEE™ 1547 DER**

Thursday, February 20th, 11am Pacific

Join the SunSpec Alliance and work group leader David Erhart of STEM, Inc. for the second SunSpec briefing of the year as we introduce SunSpec Modbus support for IEEE 1547. This webinar takes place on Thursday, February 20th at 11am Pacific and will cover the basics of SunSpec Modbus, new SunSpec information models supporting IEEE 1547 for DER, the SunSpec Modbus roadmap, and a sneak peek at the new SunSpec RESTful API for SunSpec Models. We hope you can join us.

[Learn More and Register](#)



## Welcome New SunSpec Members

Welcome new members of the SunSpec Alliance!



### RainWise Inc.

An employee-owned company, RainWise Inc. manufactures professional grade meteorological equipment for consumer, enterprise, and industrial applications. RainWise incorporated in 1974, deriving the company's name from our original product, the remote reading tipping bucket rain gauge.

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### SUNSPEC 2030.5 CSIP CERTIFIED PRODUCTS

**Certificate Number:** CS-000013  
**Manufacturer:** OutBack Power  
**Profile:** Client  
**Products:** CSIP Bridge, SkyBox  
[Visit Website](#)



**Certificate Number:** CS-000012  
**Manufacturer:** Altenergy Power System Inc.  
**Profile:** Client  
**Products:** ECU, APstorage  
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**Certificate Number:** CS-000011  
**Manufacturer:** Pika Energy, Inc.  
**Profile:** Client  
**Products:** Pika Inverter 11400W, Pika Inverter 7600W, REbus Beacon  
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**Certificate Number:** CS-000010  
**Manufacturer:** Congruitive Inc.  
**Profile:** Client  
**Products:** Congruence.IQ Gateway  
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**Certificate Number:** CS-000009  
**Manufacturer:** Kitu Systems  
**Profile:** Client  
**Products:** Kitu Spark Inverter Emulator, Kitu Spark Modbus Gateway



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**Certificate Number:** CS-000008  
**Manufacturer:** Kitu Systems  
**Profile:** Aggregator  
**Products:** Kitu Convoy Aggregator, Kitu Convoy CrossLink, Kitu Convoy Aggregator CrossLink



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## Save The Date for 2020 SunSpec Members Meeting

We're getting a jump on planning for 2020. This year the SunSpec Annual Member's meeting will be held on September 14 & 15th, 2020 in a location close to Disneyland and the Solar Power International convention. This year's format includes a plenary session (and dinner) for all members on Monday September 14 and a software developer's workshop on Tuesday September 15. More details are coming soon.

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## SunSpec Solar and Energy Storage Employer Needs Survey

**Thank You to Everyone Who Participated in Our Employment Needs Survey**

Thank you for taking the time to participate in the SunSpec Employment Needs survey! Know that your responses are helping to shape the educational curriculum for the solar and energy industry.

We are leaving the survey open and hope that if you have not already responded you will do so. The more voices we hear, the more accurate the results will be.

Please take ten minutes and let us know what skills you are looking for in prospective job candidates. When you complete the survey, you will be given an opportunity to learn more about the program and the qualified job applicants this program is generating in your area.

[Take the SunSpec Employer Survey](#)

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## Upcoming SunSpec Work Groups

SunSpec Members: kick off the new year by joining a SunSpec Work Group! Upcoming Work Group Meetings include:

- [SunSpec / Sandia DER Cybersecurity Work Group, February 13th](#)
- [SunSpec Modbus Work Group Thursday, February 13th](#)
- [SunSpec Modbus Work Group Thursday, February 20th](#)
- [SunSpec / Sandia DER Cybersecurity Work Group, February 27th](#)
- [SunSpec Modbus Work Group Thursday, February 27th](#)

We are also running a special marketing workgroup for SunSpec Rapid Shutdown. If you are interested in participating, contact [membership@sunspec.org](mailto:membership@sunspec.org).

[Learn More About Work Groups](#)

If you are not a SunSpec Alliance member, [consider joining](#) and help us shape interoperability specifications for the DER industry!



[SunSpec.org](http://SunSpec.org) | 408-217-9110 | [View as Webpage](#)