

## Third Time is the Charm

### DOE responds to grant request to promote interoperability

January 11, 2015

As anticipated the DOE has issued us a “Discouraged” notice in response to their seeking university based scientific research for energy innovation and our offer to foster interoperability with data standards.

That would make three times our project to promote data standards has failed to even get honorable mention.

Oddly enough it was a big win. See Winning from Losing – Third Time is the Charm.

After many years of personally advocating for open standards to improve access to surety credit for small companies, the collaboration and engagement for responding to the DOE FOA clearly demonstrated how close we are to a “tipping point” where the inevitability of open standards is matched with a clear path to get consensus, adoption and implementation without the risk of miscalculation that prevents investment.

In our “Santa Clause in Coming to Town” note, we shared some of the various efforts underway, and the working groups that are dedicated to finding solutions that could use the gift of a DOE grant to advance their individual efforts towards a united approach. That gift from the DOE was delivered in part, and all we have to do is open it.

If we do, the tipping point will be behind us, the beginnings of open standards and interoperability will enable incredible innovation, new tools and resources, reduce costs and increase access to information, and best of all... small business will benefit.

If you want to develop industry solutions plus help small business then now is the time to contribute to your organizations efforts and join the working group to get standards adopted.

Associated General Contractors of America/COSA (agcXML)  
<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2014/10/prweb12274428.htm>

National Association of Surety Bond Producers/Surety Fidelity Association of America (AcordXML)  
<http://www.nasbp.org/Pipeline/morearticles1/new-item5>

Department of Energy/Lawrence Berkeley National Lab – BEDES  
<http://energy.gov/eere/buildings/building-energy-data-exchange-specification-bedes>

XBRL US  
<http://xbrl.us/news/pages/20141016.aspx>

Smart Grid Interoperability Panel  
<http://sgip.org/PAP-25>

While we may not be able to offer \$1,000,000 of DOE grant funding to these groups, we are planning on continuing with the obligation to raise \$250,000 which will still be used as contemplated in the grant proposal, to support and to help “knit together” the various standards by establishing a university based Interoperability R&D facility that can act as a noncommercial platform to collaborate and synergize the various standard’s so that they complement each other, instead of competing.

By collaborating we can clear the “tipping point” and focus instead on taking advantage of the resource that open standards represent, instead of prudently waiting and deferring.

Let’s get to work.