



THE CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR CORPORATION

The ISO manages the flow of electricity across the high-voltage, long-distance power lines that make up the bulk of California's power grid. Its job is to keep a pulse on the electrical lifeblood of the economy and safeguard the well-being of 30 million people by "keeping the lights on".

As the impartial operator of the grid, the not-for-profit ISO also opens access to wholesale power markets designed to diversify resources and lower prices, and grants equal access to 25,526 circuit-miles of power lines. Every five minutes, the ISO forecasts the state's electricity demand, accounts for operating reserves and dispatches the lowest cost power plant unit to meet that demand while allocating space on the power lines.

The California ISO opened its northern and southern California control centers in 1998 when the state restructured its wholesale electricity industry. While utilities still own transmission assets, the California ISO acts as a traffic controller, routing electrons, maximizing the use of the transmission system and its generation resources, and supervising maintenance of the lines. As the nerve center for the California power grid, the ISO matches buyers and sellers of electricity, facilitating nearly 30,000 market transactions every day to ensure enough power is on hand to meet demand.

The ISO keeps a pulse on an estimated **55,000 megawatts** of capacity from more than **1,400 power plant units** connected to **25,526 circuit miles of transmission lines** serving the electricity needs of **30 million Californians.**