

## News Release

For immediate release | **October 13, 2020**

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### **California ISO announces retirements, creation of executive position**

Two vice presidents to retire this year; another is tapped to fill new COO job

FOLSOM, Calif. – The California Independent System Operator (ISO) today announced the retirement plans of two of its key executives and the creation of a new Chief Operating Officer (COO) position.

Petar Ristanovic, vice president of technology, and Eric Schmitt, vice president of operations, are retiring, leaving behind a legacy of cutting-edge technology advances and record-setting integration of renewable energy on the grid. Both executives will assist with the transition through the end of the year.

Mark Rothleder, currently the ISO's vice president of market policy and performance, will become the new COO.

“Petar and Eric represent the gold standard in the energy industry, and both were instrumental in shaping the California ISO into the pioneering, modern power grid and electricity market of today,” said ISO President and CEO Elliot Mainzer. “They have been contemplating retiring for some time, and while the company will certainly feel the loss of these high-caliber executives, their leadership has left us well positioned for the transition. We wish them well in this next chapter and will carry their accomplishments forward.”

Mainzer also said he looks forward to working with Rothleder in the COO position, as they team up to meet the company's strategic goal of enabling a reliable transition to a clean energy grid.

“Mark has been with the ISO since its inception, giving him immense and deep knowledge of our organization and the industry,” Mainzer said. “I know Mark will do an outstanding job in his new role as COO.”

Since joining the ISO 23 years ago, Rothleder has worked extensively on implementing and integrating the approved market rules for California's competitive wholesale energy and reserves markets.

Before being named vice president, Rothleder was executive director of market analysis and development. His previous positions at the ISO included principal market developer and director of market operations.



In spring 2009, Rothleder led a multifunctional team to design and launch market rules and software modifications for the ISO's Market Redesign and Technology Upgrade (MRTU), an ambitious and expansive project to enhance the efficiency of energy dispatch and improve the wholesale electricity market system with advanced computer software.

As a part of the ISO start-up team in 1997, Rothleder is currently the longest serving ISO employee.

Ristanovic has more than 35 years of experience in the electric utility industry. He came to the ISO from Siemens Energy Automation, where he held several key positions, including Solutions Global Innovation Manager. Prior to that, he worked for Electric Institute Nikola Tesla in Belgrade, developing and implementing advanced power system applications.

He first worked for the ISO implementing the 2009 launch of the MRTU. He then joined the ISO in 2010 as vice president of technology, overseeing all technology functions, along with directing the Program Management Office and the Physical and Information Security department.

During his tenure with the ISO, Ristanovic has:

- Driven the ISO's technology platform to the most advanced in the world;
- Developed a robust cyber security program;
- Overseen design and implementation of the Western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM);
- Led integration of Reliability Coordinator technology and tools;
- Coordinated the ongoing Enhanced Day-Ahead Market initiative;
- Led installation of state-of-the-art energy management and advanced visualization software.

As vice president of operations, Schmitt is responsible for California's bulk electric system operations, real-time engineering and market services. He also has more than 35 years of experience in the power industry, with an interdisciplinary background in operations, engineering, technology, business and environmental program management.

Prior to joining the ISO in 2011, Schmitt served as senior vice president at Science Applications International Corp. in McLean, VA. He also has held leadership positions with Capgemini Americas where he served as Global Power Center of Excellence Leader. Other prior positions include director of Technology Strategy and Planning for Dallas-based TXU (now Luminant) and an array of technical and management positions at TU Electric, Texas Utilities Engineering, Texas Utilities Power Generation, and Florida Power & Light.

Among his many accomplishments at the ISO, Schmitt has:



- Directed grid operations during a decade that saw renewable energy integration increase from virtually zero to 25,000 megawatts;
- Established the redundant control center in Lincoln, CA;
- Modernized the settlement process timeline and improved EIM customer compatibility;
- Nearly eliminated the dispute backlog;
- Established Reliability Coordinator services.

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The California Independent System Operator (ISO) is a nonprofit public benefit corporation dedicated, with its partners, to continuous improvement and secure operation of a reliable grid operated for the benefit of consumers. It provides comprehensive grid planning, open and nondiscriminatory access to one of the largest networks of high-voltage transmission power lines in the world, and operates a \$9 billion competitive electricity market. Recognizing the importance of the global climate challenge, the ISO is at the forefront of integrating renewable power and advanced technologies that will help provide a sustainable energy future efficiently and cleanly.

The Western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) Governing Body is the governing authority designed by regional stakeholders with delegated authority from the ISO Board of Governors to resolve rules specific to participation in the Western EIM.