

News Release

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California ISO launches the most advanced grid operating system

FOLSOM, Calif. – The California Independent System Operator (ISO) upgraded its power grid operating technology last week, making it the most advanced in the industry.

The Siemens Spectrum Power™ 7 energy management system was launched into the ISO's grid environment on Oct. 2, following five years of study, competitive bidding, design, and implementation. The system upgrade is intended to better serve ISO customers, while meeting the challenges of an evolving energy landscape.

"The ISO now has the most sophisticated energy management system in the world," said ISO President and CEO Steve Berberich. "The new system aligns with our strategic vision and goals to maintain a reliable grid while expanding leading-edge tools and services to support our participating transmission owners, and the Western Energy Imbalance Market and RC West participants."

Moving to the Siemens product improves grid power flow accuracy; supports market enhancements and network applications and allows for broader renewable energy integration. The new system also enhances operators' situational awareness; offers operational flexibility with frequent model changes; and upgrades critical infrastructure protection.

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The California ISO provides open and non-discriminatory access to one of the largest power grids in the world. The vast network of high-voltage transmission power lines is supported by a competitive energy market and comprehensive grid planning. Partnering with about a hundred clients, the nonprofit public benefit corporation is dedicated to the continual development and reliable operation of a modern grid that operates for the benefit of consumers. Recognizing the importance of the global climate challenge, the ISO is at the forefront of integrating renewable power and advanced technologies that will help meet a sustainable energy future efficiently and cleanly.