

## **Fiscal Year 2010 Operation plan**

### **1. Overview**

It is anticipated that demand to create a low-carbon society will lead to increased momentum in government-led R&D on smart house/smart community technologies and standardization activities in fiscal 2010. The ECHONET Consortium sees this development as an excellent opportunity to reinforce its activities to enlighten the public about ECHONET and to continue improvement of the standard so that it reflects market needs and becomes easier to use. The ECHONET Consortium will also create an environment to promote products and services that use ECHONET through coordination with other bodies.

Specifically, the ECHONET Consortium will study ecosystems to provide energy-related services. This will include response to Demand Side Management and other applications through visualization of energy and linkage of energy-creating/energy-storing devices, and seamless linkage with out-of-home systems. It will also examine requirements and systems for diffusing application systems and provide lateral support for standard operation by members.

Moreover, the ECHONET Consortium plans to formulate and begin implementing scenarios and a road map for further reinforcement of the ECHONET Specification and development of future international standardization activities. These steps will be to ensure that ECHONET can contribute to stronger competitiveness for smart home appliances and their application systems in the future.

### **2. Steering Committee**

#### **(1) Policy for fiscal 2010**

- (a) To improve the practicality and enhance the international competitiveness of the ECHONET Specification**
  - To share low carbon-compatible applications and reflect them on the standard
  - To reinforce the standard's competitiveness and apply existing resources
  - To reinforce the standard toward realization of interconnectivity
- (b) To reinforce public relations activities intended to improve recognition and understanding of the standard**
  - To hold technical seminars, seminars for the general public, etc.

- **To prepare public relations articles and pamphlets**
  - (c) **To study system designs, etc., for diffusion of the ECHONET Specification**
  - (d) **To formulate and develop new strategies for international standardization**
- (2) **Organization**
- The Committee shall operate through the following four working groups:**
- (a) **Intellectual Property Rights and Legal Issues Working Group**
  - (b) **Research Working Group**
  - (c) **Certification Working Group**
  - (d) **International Standardization Working Group**
- (3) **Specific activities**
- 1) **Review of the operation plan, budget, and completed accounts**
    - (a) **Review of the completed accounts of the current fiscal year**
    - (b) **Review of the operation plan of the next fiscal year**
    - (c) **Review of the budget of the next fiscal year**
  - 2) **General Meeting**  
June 1, 2010 (Tue.)
    - **Report on operations and completed accounts of fiscal 2009**
    - **Operation plan and budget for fiscal 2010**
  - 3) **Forums**  
Scheduled to be held twice
    - **Overseas investigation report**
    - **Marketing research report on ECHONET, report on ECHONET promotion measures**
    - **Development of the ECHONET Specification**
    - **Liaison with other standardization organizations**
    - **Presentations of ECHONET-related technologies/systems by member companies, etc.**
  - 4) **Intellectual Property Rights and Legal Issues Working Group**
    - (a) **Enhancement of rules, regulations, customary rules, and important arrangements**
    - (b) **Study of patent policy and intellectual property management**
    - (c) **Research activities**
  - 5) **Research Working Group**  
**The Working Group shall participate in major home network-related international conferences in the United States and Europe, and conduct market surveys in peripheral enterprises and stores. It shall also obtain up-to-date**

information on related technologies, services, devices, etc., for feedback to members and use as a reference in Consortium activities.

- (a) Investigation in the United States (May 2010)
  - Participation in home network-related international conferences, survey of leading US companies, survey of peripheral markets
- (b) Investigation in Europe (November 2010)
  - Participation in home network-related international conferences, survey of leading European companies, survey of peripheral markets
- 6) Certification Working Group
  - (a) Preparation of documents related to certification of new standards
  - (b) Checking of voluntary audit reports for certification work by external organizations
- 7) International Standardization Working Group
  - (a) Study of future international standardization activities and policies
  - (b) Regular review of and response to existing international standards
  - (c) Study of measures to address other international standardization proposals
- 8) Asia Home Network Council
  - (a) Regular council meetings with IGRS (China) and HNF (Korea) – 3 times
  - (b) Information sharing on standardization and market / technology trend
  - (c) Discussion on joint study
- 9) Other activities
  - Examination of liaison with other networks and organizations

### 3. Technical Committee

- (1) Policy for fiscal 2010
  - (a) Standard formulation for the ECHONET Specification
    - The Committee will work to reduce packaging for the current ECHONET Specification to promote its diffusion.
    - Continuing work from fiscal 2009, the Committee will complete standardization of equipment objects for devices that create, store, and conserve energy, and will complete formulation of standards for including 6LoWPAN, which is a specification for realizing low power wireless networks using IPv6, in the ECHONET Specification.
  - (b) Technical support in international standardization proposals
    - The Committee will propose international standardization of equipment objects in collaboration with the International Standardization Working

**Group.**

(2) Organization

During fiscal 2010, the Committee shall operate through the following working groups:

- Systems Architecture Working Group
- Smart EMS Study Working Group
- Interconnection Working Group

(3) Specific activities

(a) Systems Architecture Working Group

- Continuing from fiscal 2009, the Committee will, within the 6LoWPAN Sub-Working Group established under the Systems Architecture Working Group, work on standardization toward including 6LoWPAN in the ECHONET Specification as a subsidiary communications software specification. Formulation of this standard will make the ECHONET Specification compatible with IPv6
- The Working Group will complete preparation of a draft and begin a member review in April 2010. Moreover, the Working Group will disclose the result as the ECHONET Specification among members by August 2010.
- By making maximum use of equipment objects, which are the ECHONET Consortium's biggest asset, the Working Group will improve lengthy portions of the ECHONET Specification and begin study toward lighter packaging of the ECHONET Specification.
- The Working Group will continue maintenance of the ECHONET Specification from the standpoint of improved interconnectivity.
- When a proposal for additional study of an equipment object is made, an ad hoc object sub-working group will be established based on the initiative of the proposing company under the Systems Architecture Working Group. This sub-working group will study specifications for inclusion of the new equipment object in the ECHONET Specification.
- To encourage expansion of ECHONET's scope of compatibility, when standardizing a new transmission medium, an ad hoc sub-working group on media development will be established based on the initiative of the proposing company under the Systems Architecture Working Group. This sub-working group will study specifications for inclusion in the ECHONET Specification.

(b) Smart EMS Study Working Group

- The Working Group will study use cases for realizing highly efficient energy use that encompasses devices that create, store, and conserve energy as well as power grid systems; define equipment objects for devices that create, store, and conserve energy based on the use cases as well as a super class; and standardize them.
  - The Working Group will study methods for proposing international standardization, with focus on expansion of IEC 62394, which is already an international standard. It will also prepare a draft proposing international standardization of equipment objects pertaining to energy management services.
  - The Working Group will complete preparation of the draft and begin a member review in September 2010. The Working Group will disclose the result as the ECHONET Specification among members by December 2010.
- (c) Support for confirming interconnection
- In response to demands from members, the Plug Festo will continue to be held for verification of multivendor interconnectivity. The Interconnection Working Group will conduct technical studies to ensure interconnectivity.
- (d) Technical support for international standardization
- The Committee will provide technical support when maintenance of international standardization specification by the International Standardization Working Group, new proposals, or other actions become necessary.

#### 4. Promotion Committee

##### (1) Policy for fiscal 2010

- (a) Improved recognition of the ECHONET Specification and the activities of the ECHONET Consortium
- Promotion of use of “ECHONET Specification-compatible home network development assistance tools”
  - Preparation of public relations materials for the ECHONET Specification
- (b) Promotion of use of the ECHONET Specification
- Proposal of plans for national projects concerning home networks (“smart home”) that utilize the ECHONET Specification, and promotion of participation in said projects.

##### (2) Organization

In fiscal 2010, the Committee shall promote activities based on the established

**organizational setup.**

- (a) Activity Invigoration Working Group**
- (b) Promotion Working Group**
- (c) Publicity Working Group**
- (d) ECHONET-ZigBee/15.4 Liaison Study Working Group**

**(3) Specific activities**

- 1) Activity Invigoration Working Group**
  - **Beginning of supply of the “ECHONET Specification-compatible development assistance tools” that were prepared in fiscal 2009 and expansion of users**
  - **Activities to promote use of the ECHONET Specification in demonstration test projects for “smart grids,” “smart houses,” “smart communities,” etc.**
- 2) Promotion Working Group**
  - (a) Preparation of public relations materials for the ECHONET Specification**
    - **Review of leaflets presenting ECHONET to ensure that they conform to the smart grid and smart house concepts**
    - **Preparation of pamphlets that present the characteristics of equipment objects, characteristics of network security, etc.**
  - (b) Supply of information and survey of promotion status**
    - **Delivery of newsletters**
    - **Survey of shipping conditions of ECHONET-compatible products**
  - (c) Liaison with other organizations and universities**
    - **The Working Group will promote the public relations directed at other organizations and the building of information liaison, with the aim of expanding use of the “ECHONET Specification-compatible development assistance tools” that were developed in fiscal 2009.**
    - **The Working Group will engage in public relations activities for the new academic membership system, and will promote information exchanges and network-building with university personnel.**
  - (d) Planning and execution of exhibits, etc.**
    - **Selection of exhibits with high ECHONET appeal (such as Eco-Products, which was held in fiscal 2009) and promotion of activities through establishment of sub-working groups**
  - (e) Holding of the ninth ECHONET Seminar**
    - **Planning and promotion of a seminar for the general public**
  - (f) Other activities**

- **Promotion of public relations and lecture meeting activities that target related industries (including PR to foster renewed recognition of the significance and objectives of ECHONET for A and B member companies) and promotion of contributions to journals and academic societies**
- 3) **Publicity Working Group**
- **Promotion of studies of effective PR methods that are in addition to conventional methods so as to improve recognition**
  - **Announcement of development achievements and approaches at seminars and forums**
  - **Study and promotion of public relations methods that target overseas interests**
  - **Promotion of information disclosure using the ECHONET Consortium's website**
  - **Information disclosure to media organizations and related industries, and response to requests for information from such organizations/industries**
- 4) **ECHONET-ZigBee/15.4 Liaison Study Working Group**
- **Study of related measures that would be effective in promoting ECHONET, including concretizing liaison meetings with ZigBee SIG Japan, through which coordination was started at the end of fiscal 2008**