

Fiscal Year 2011 Business Plan

1. Overview

Given the need to create a low-carbon society, it is anticipated that government-led R&D on smart house/smart community technologies and standardization activities will continue in fiscal 2011. Seizing this opportunity, the ECHONET Consortium will strive to improve public recognition of ECHONET using various measures, including applying the results of efforts to develop the standard in fiscal 2010 and development assistance tools designed to promote ECHONET. At the same time, it will work to develop concrete instances of ECHONET application and continue activities to improve the standard in order to make it even more practical. The ECHONET Consortium will further create an environment for promoting products and services that use ECHONET by working in collaboration with other organizations, research institutes, private enterprises, and others.

Specifically, the ECHONET Consortium will develop device objects for devices that create, store, and conserve energy; achieve IPv6 compatibility; and complete standardization of ECHONET Lite, which was created to be an easier-to-use standard, and begin issuing it. It will further develop the certification environment.

The ECHONET Consortium will continue to make improvements to the ECHONET Specification by examining systems with focus on energy-related services such as HEMS through visualization of energy and linkage of energy-creating/energy-storing devices. It will engage seek to raise recognition of ECHONET by engaging in widespread public awareness activities for ECHONET that highlight these newly standardized elements. It will also provide lateral support for members' application of the standard by actively providing development assistance tools to members free of charge. At the same time, it will promote international standardization of device objects and energy-related devices so that ECHONET can contribute to stronger international competitiveness for smart home appliances and their application systems.

Moreover, the ECHONET Consortium will study various actions, including conducting reviews of its operational structure and membership system with an eye to expanding the ECHONET Specification's application and increasing membership.

2. Steering Committee

(1) Policy for fiscal 2011

- (a) To complete standardization of and issue the following new standards:
 - ECHONET Specification Ver. 4.00
 - ECHONET Lite Specification Ver. 1.00
 - Detailed regulations for APPENDIX ECHONET device objects:
Release a
- (b) To improve the ECHONET Specification's utility
 - To study low-carbon service applications (use cases and sample applications) and reflect them on the standard
 - To apply existing resources and reinforce the standard's competitiveness
 - To reinforce the standard toward realization of interconnectivity
- (c) To reinforce public relations activities intended to improve recognition and understanding of the standard
 - To hold forums
 - To review the standard's operation, including opening of the standard
 - To prepare public relations articles and pamphlets
- (d) To review the operational structure and membership system
- (e) To promote international standardization of device objects, and to formulate and develop new international standardization activities

(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) Study of the business plan, budget, and completed accounts
 - Settlement of accounts of the current fiscal year
 - Formulation of the business plan of the next fiscal year
 - Formulation of the budget of the next fiscal year

- 2) Board of Directors Meeting
April 20, 2011 (Wed.)
 - Report on operations and completed accounts of the previous fiscal year
 - Deliberation on the business plan and budget for the current fiscal year
- 3) General Meeting
May 23, 2011 (Mon.)
 - Report on operations and completed accounts of the previous fiscal year
 - Deliberation on the business plan and budget for the current fiscal year
- 4) 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.
- 5) 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
- 6) Research Working Group
 - (a) Scheduled implementation of two international investigations
 - (b) Gathering of up-to-date information on technologies, services, devices, etc., concerning overseas home networks for feedback to members and use as reference in ECHONET Consortium activities
 - Participation in major home network-related international conferences held overseas
 - Implementation of market surveys targeting the peripheral enterprises of conferences, retail outlets, etc.
- 7) 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
- 8) International Standardization Working Group
 - (a) Study of future international standardization activities and policies
 - Promotion of international standardization of device objects
 - (b) Regular review of and response to existing international standards
 - (c) Study of measures to address other international standardization proposals
- 9) Asia Home Network Council (AHNC)
 - (a) Holding of three regular conferences with IGRS (China) and SGHF (South Korea)
 - (b) Information exchanges on progress in standard development as well as market and technical trends
 - (c) Deliberations on joint research
- 10) Other activities
 - Examination of liaison with other organizations, universities, etc.

3. Technical Committee

(1) Policy for fiscal 2011

- (a) To formulate standards for the ECHONET Specification
 - The Committee will complete formulation of the written standard for the ECHONET Lite Specification and Appendix, reflecting the results of the member review completed in fiscal 2010, and will formulate certification specifications.
 - Regarding inclusion of 6LoWPAN, which is a specification for realizing energy-saving wireless networks using IPv6, in the ECHONET Specification, the Committee will conduct a member review, complete formulation of Ver. 4.00 of the ECHONET Specification, and formulate certification specifications.
- (b) To provide technical support in international standardization proposals
 - The Committee will propose international standardization of device objects in collaboration with the International Standardization Working Group.

(2) Organization

During fiscal 2011, the Committee shall operate through the following working

groups:

- (a) Systems Architecture Working Group
- (b) Smart EMS Study Working Group
- (c) Interoperability Working Group

(3) Specific activities

- 1) Systems Architecture Working Group
 - (a) The Working Group will complete standardization of ECHONET Lite Ver. 1.00, for which member review was completed in fiscal 2010. With the completion of standard formulation, the Working Group will begin preparing certification specifications that will be completed during fiscal 2011.
 - (b) Continuing from fiscal 2010, the Working Group will, within the IPv6/6LoWPAN Sub-Working Group established under the Systems Architecture Working Group, conduct a member review of ECHONET Specification Ver. 4.00. After the member review is completed, the Working Group will begin preparing certification specifications for subsidiary communications software of IPv6/Ethernet and IPv6/6LoWPAN that were added as new transmission media. This will be completed in the first half of fiscal 2011.
 - (c) The Working Group will continue maintenance of the ECHONET Specification and ECHONET Lite Specification from the standpoint of improved interconnectivity.
 - (d) When a proposal for additional study of an device 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 device object in the ECHONET Specification.
- 2) Smart EMS Study Working Group
 - (a) The Working Group will complete standardization of an Appendix that brings together definitions of device objects for which member review was completed in fiscal 2010.
 - (b) 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 device objects pertaining to energy management services and support the activities of the International

Standardization Working Group.

3) Interoperability Working Group

In response to demands from members, the Plug Festo will continue to be held for verification of multivendor interconnectivity. The Interoperability Working Group will conduct technical studies to ensure interconnectivity.

4. Promotion Committee

(1) Policy for fiscal 2011

(a) To improve 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) To promote 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

During fiscal 2011, the Committee shall operate through the following working groups:

- (a) Activity Invigoration Working Group
- (b) The Promotion Working Group will be integrated into the Activity Invigoration Working Group
- (c) Publicity Working Group
- (d) ECHONET-ZigBee/15.4 Liaison Study Working Group

(3) Specific activities

1) Activity Invigoration Working Group

- (a) Promotion of use of the ECHONET Specification in demonstration test projects for “smart grids,” “smart houses,” “smart communities,” etc.
- (b) Expansion of the number of users of “ECHONET Specification-compatible development assistance tools” that became available in fiscal 2010 and expansion of tool functions
- (c) Preparation of public relations materials for the ECHONET Specification

- Preparation of pamphlets that present the characteristics of device objects, characteristics of network security, etc.
 - (d) Supply of information and survey of promotion status
 - Delivery of newsletters
 - Survey of shipping conditions of ECHONET-compatible products
 - (e) Liaison with other organizations and universities
 - The Working Group will engage in public relations directed at other organizations and promote the building of information liaison, with the aim of expanding use of the “ECHONET Specification-compatible development assistance tools” that became available in fiscal 2010.
 - 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.
 - (f) Planning and execution of exhibits, etc.
 - Selection of exhibits with high ECHONET appeal (such as ENEX2011, in which the ECHONET Consortium participated in fiscal 2010) and promotion of activities through establishment of sub-working groups (e.g., ENEX2012, smart grid-related exhibits, etc.)
 - (g) Holding of seminars
 - Planning and promotion of seminars for the general public, including those held jointly with other organizations.
 - (h) 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
- 2) Publicity Working Group
- Promotion of studies of effective PR methods that are in addition to conventional methods so as to improve recognition
- (a) Public relations announcements concerning issuance of new standards
 - (b) Announcement of development achievements and approaches at seminars and forums
 - (c) Study and promotion of public relations methods that target overseas interests

- (d) Promotion of information disclosure using the ECHONET Consortium's website
 - (e) Information disclosure to media organizations and related industries, and response to requests for information from such organizations/industries
- 3) ECHONET-ZigBee/15.4 Liaison Study Working Group
Study of measures that would be effective in promoting ZigBee and ECHONET