



# Securing Solar for the Grid: Spring 2024 IAB Meeting

March 2024

*Changing the World's Energy Future*

Megan Jordan Culler, Jake P Gentle, John Clay Bell II, Rita A Foster, Emma Mary Stewart, Daniel Alan Ricci



*INL is a U.S. Department of Energy National Laboratory operated by Battelle Energy Alliance, LLC*

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# **Securing Solar for the Grid: Spring 2024 IAB Meeting**

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**March 2024**

**Idaho National Laboratory  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83415**

**<http://www.inl.gov>**

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# Securing Solar for the Grid (S2G)

## Spring 2024 IAB Meeting

Presented on: March 14, 2024

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Lab Coordinating Committee (LCC) Chair: Megan Culler (INL)

LCC Co-Chair: Danish Saleem (NREL)

# Spring 2024 S2G IAB Meeting Agenda

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- SETO Welcome (Marissa Morales-Rodriguez)
- LCC Updates (Megan Culler)
- Lab Updates
  - INL (Megan Culler)
  - NREL (Danish Saleem)
  - PNNL (Scott Mix)
  - Sandia (Birk Jones)
- Solar Cybersecurity Roadmap Workshop
- Upcoming Activities and Closeout

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**TECHNOLOGIES OFFICE**  
U.S. Department Of Energy

# Securing Solar for the Grid (S2G)

## Lab Coordinating Committee Updates

Presented on: March 14, 2024

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# Securing Solar for the Grid

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## Background and Objectives

- Growth of solar penetration along with historical lack of cybersecurity standards and industry awareness drives need for research and deployment-ready solutions
- Work with industry to address gaps in solar cybersecurity standards
- Develop tools and resources for cyber risk assessment
- Assess supply chain impacts and mitigations
- Promote training and education for solar stakeholders
- Advance monitoring & incident response capabilities

**64 individuals representing 30+ organizations!**



### **Industry Advisory Board Members:**

Trade associations (3)  
Utilities (4)  
Developers (2)  
Manufacturers (3)  
Consultants (5)  
Security Solutions (7)  
Standards Development Organizations (4)  
Regulators (3)  
Other (3)

## Lab Coordinating Committee



# Focus Areas of S2G

	FY22	FY23	FY24
<b>National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support UL cybersecurity certification program</li> <li>Support for IEEE 1547.3 cybersecurity guide</li> <li>Support supply chain security related activities</li> <li>Convene, coordinate, facilitate LCC meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support UL cybersecurity certification program</li> <li>Co-lead IEEE 1547.3 cybersecurity guide</li> <li>Co-lead effort of including of cybersecurity in IEEE 1547-2025 standard revision</li> <li>Support supply chain cybersecurity-related efforts</li> <li>Support DERMS cybersecurity-related efforts</li> <li>Convene, coordinate, facilitate &amp; co-lead LCC meetings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish UL 2941 cybersecurity certification outline of investigation and support UL 2941 Technical Committee for consensus development.</li> <li>Publish IEEE 1547.3 cybersecurity guide as vice-chair and support including cybersecurity recommendation to IEEE 1547-2025 standard requirements.</li> <li>Develop test procedures for UL 2941 using single PV inverter and shared with UL</li> <li>Incorporated industry and DOE feedback to DERMS cybersecurity paper</li> </ul>
<b>Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support supply chain standards work for solar industry</li> <li>Update distribution model to include Solar PV Resources</li> <li>Perform Secure Design Cybersecurity Capability Maturity Model (SD2-C2M2) assessments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support supply chain standards work for solar industry</li> <li>Perform Secure Design Cybersecurity Capability Maturity Model (SD2-C2M2) assessments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convert IEEE-9500 and LV Network to ePHASORSIM model with Solar DER and post with other converted models on GitHub</li> <li>Perform Secure Design and Development Cybersecurity Capability Maturity Model (SD2-C2M2) assessments</li> <li>Develop Solar Power Resilience Maturity Model (Sol-ReMM) tool</li> </ul>
<b>Idaho National Laboratory (INL)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the development of Solar Cert tool</li> <li>Develop Solar CyberStrike training and tool.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a risk assessment methodology by leveraging DHS's CSET tool tuned to solar industry</li> <li>Develop Solar CyberStrike training and tool.</li> <li>Supply chain security and automated cyber analysis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop focused industry engagement strategy to use across tasks</li> <li>Pilot full CyberStrike STOMCLOUD training</li> <li>Promote adoption of risk analysis toolsets</li> <li>Build HBOM library for solar</li> <li>Explore ML for codified attack surface and defense</li> </ul>
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<b>Idaho National Laboratory (INL)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the development of Solar Cert tool</li> <li>Develop Solar CyberStrike training and tool.</li> </ul>	<div>Cybersecurity Tool Kit and Supply Chain</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DHS's CSST tool tuned to solar industry</li> <li>Develop Solar CyberStrike training and tool.</li> <li>Supply chain security and automated cyber analysis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perform Secure Design and Development Cybersecurity Capability Maturity Model (SD2-C2M2) assessments</li> <li>Develop Solar Power Resilience Maturity Model (Sol-ReMM) tool</li> </ul>
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# Recent S2G Events

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- IEEE 1547 meeting participation
- Engagement with NERC SITE's and SPIDER working groups
- Energy Transitions Summit (2/5/24-2/8/24)
  - 2/5/24: CyberStrike STORMCLOUD workshop
  - 2/6/24: S2G Panel
  - 2/8/24: CyberStrike STORMCLOUD workshop
- 2024 IEEE Innovative Smart Grid Technologies North America (IGST NA) conference

- New S2G quarterly newsletter
- Targeting training and partnership with industry organizations
- Update to the 2017 Roadmap for PV Cybersecurity
- Second IAB meeting will be held in-person at RE+
  - Anaheim, CA
  - Sept. 9-12, 2024)



**SECURING SOLAR FOR THE GRID (S2G)**  
Advancing Cybersecurity for the Solar Era Quarterly Newsletter

Securing Solar for the Grid (S2G) | Department of Energy

In today's interconnected world, cybersecurity is paramount to ensuring the safety and reliability of our critical infrastructure, including the electric grid. As solar photovoltaic (PV) systems and other distributed energy resources (DERs) proliferate, their integration into the grid presents unique cybersecurity challenges. To address these concerns, the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) has launched the Securing Solar for the Grid (S2G) project, a collaborative effort to enhance the cybersecurity of solar technologies and the grid as a whole.

The S2G project brings together leading experts from national laboratories, industry and academia to tackle a wide range of cybersecurity issues, including:

- Developing cybersecurity standards and certifications for DERs to ensure they meet minimum safety and security requirements.
- Creating cyber-physical network monitoring tools to detect and respond to cyberattacks in real time.
- Conducting risk assessments and mitigation strategies to identify and address potential vulnerabilities in solar systems and the grid.
- Providing stakeholder training and education to equip industry professionals and policymakers with the knowledge and skills to protect solar systems from cyberthreats.

The S2G project is committed to ensuring that the solar industry can safely and securely integrate with the grid, enabling the United States to harness the full potential of solar energy while maintaining a resilient and secure electricity system.

### Tools for Evaluating & Improving Solar Technologies

#### CAS Methods Modification

Energy unused is useless energy – at least, that's how a logician like Mr. Spock might see it. From an S2G perspective, this translates into ensuring the end users of solar energy are also considered when developing a comprehensive cyberdefense strategy. With Codified Attack Surfaces (CAS) methods as the vehicle, the S2G design aims to create a cyber-analysis capability at the stakeholder scale, providing indicator and mitigation from existing and evolving cyberthreats. This is a INEL product.

#### SolarSHIELD

Cyberdefense needs in the solar industry are as varied and diverse as the populations the industry serves. Location, hardware, software, data acquisition, collecting connective tissue – all these elements, as well as countless other variables, factor into an effective cyberdefense strategy. Utilizing the groundwork laid by the Cyber Security Evaluation Tool (CSSET®) and Maltools, SolarSHIELD aims to facilitate S2G's goal to deliver standardized, repeatable cybersecurity-evaluation methodology tools to the solar industry.

### Standards & Workforce Development

#### Universal Utility Data Exchange (UUDEX) for Solar Security

The **Universal Utility Data Exchange (UUDEX)** is a new communication approach for exchanging information between utility control centers. The S2G project supported documenting a method to incorporate solar- and DER-related information exchanges for interchange using the Universal Utility Data Exchange (UUDEX) protocol, which is being converted to an IEEE standard as P2030.103. This task documented the process for exchanging Solar DER information in UUDEX by encapsulating an existing IEEE 2030.5 information packet in a UUDEX wrapper. This is a PRINL product.

#### CyberStrike STORMCLOUD

Solving the cyberdefense puzzle is a little like solving a Rubik's Cube – training and strategy goes a long way. Partnering with SNL, INEL is refining and focusing the CyberStrike STORMCLOUD training program. STORMCLOUD delivers a solar-focused curriculum and hands-on lab program to help expose cyberdefense professionals to solar energy industry challenges.

The training's target audience is made up of vendors, solar utility owner/operators and, cybersecurity professionals in both the information technology (IT) and operational technology (OT) spheres who are interested in broadening their technical and practical expertise. The platform gives students experience defending solar energy systems from cyberattacks. Course

# Securing Solar for the Grid (S2G)

## Idaho National Laboratory Updates

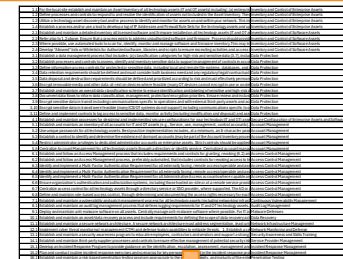
Presented on: March 14, 2024

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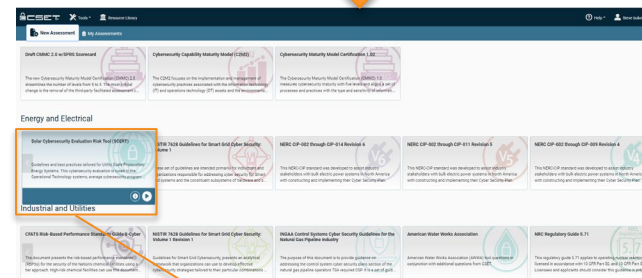
Principal Investigator: Megan Culler

Other Contributors: Jake Gentle, Emma Stewart, Daniel Ricci, Rita Foster, Crash Bell

- **FY24 Plans:**
  - Release updates to CSET and Malcolm
  - Provide documentation for industry engagement requirements
  - Identify deployment challenges and mitigations from industry engagements
  - Improve integration of Malcolm with CSET
- **Accomplishments to date:**
  - Tailored solar questions added to CSET
  - Solar architectures added to CSET
  - Common solar OT protocol parsing added to Malcolm
  - Malcolm Asset Interaction Analysis Guide released
    - <https://cisagov.github.io/Malcolm/docs/asset-interaction-analysis.html>
    - <https://cset-renewables-download.inl.gov/>
- **Requests for industry engagement:**
  - Interested in a SHIELD engagement? Reach out:
    - <https://resilience.inl.gov/INLCYBERSHIELD>
    - [cybershield@inl.gov](mailto:cybershield@inl.gov)
    - Dan Ricci: [Daniel.Ricci@inl.gov](mailto:Daniel.Ricci@inl.gov)



Solar  
Questions



CSET Dashboard  
Featuring SCERT



# CyberSHIELD Ecosystem

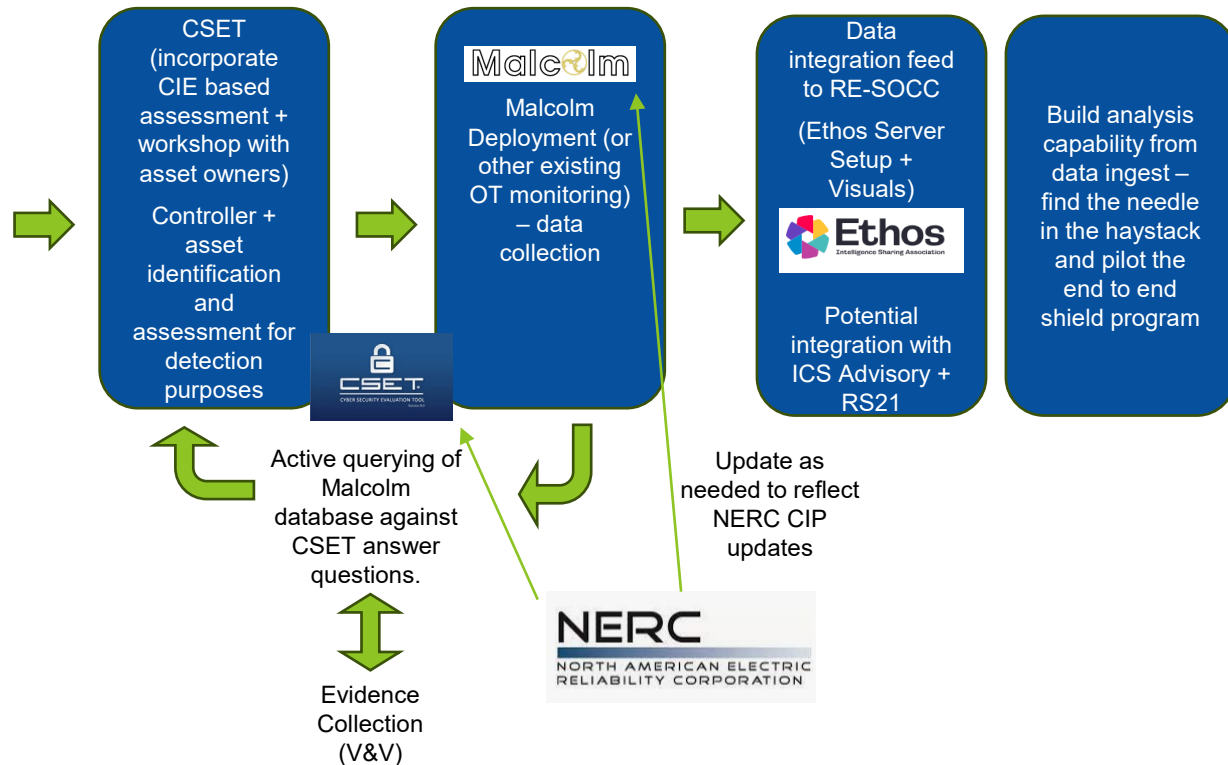
Funded by:



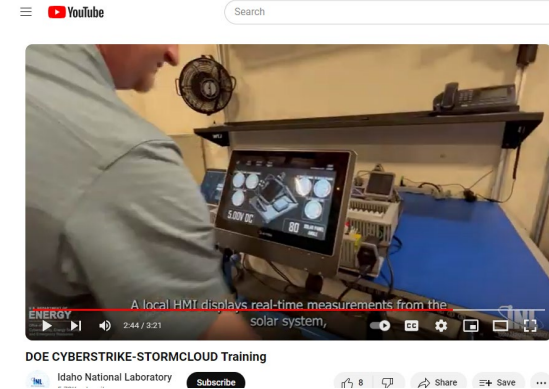
CIE Template for solar, spreadsheet, scoring... into the CSET platform.

CIE (CESER) Clean Energy Guide feeds into solar version:

- Leverage existing battery guide



- FY24 Plans:
  - Manufacture 10 kits with updated hardware
  - Update curriculum with 2023 events
  - Prep for virtualization to make it more accessible
- Accomplishments to date:
  - 6 kits manufactured
  - CyberStrike STORMCLOUD promotional video released  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4G2aTzz0zKg>
  - All 8 lab exercises now tested by participants
- Upcoming training:
  - Full day tutorial at IEEE PES GM
  - Modules to be offered at RE+





# CyberStrike Storm Cloud Demo Kit



Solar “inverter” –  
Raspberry Pi  
emulator

Single-axis solar

Space for EV  
model

HMI

Bachmann controller to be  
used for wind

Network switch for  
the DER system

Open platform design to  
allow wind turbine to blow



- **FY24 Plans:**
  - Prioritize inverters to investigate
  - Perform HBOM analysis of new inverters
  - Develop hardware catalog that can be cross-referenced with known vulnerabilities
- **Accomplishments to date:**
  - Hardware enumeration completed for 3 unique inverters
  - Vulnerabilities associated with hardware documented
  - Prioritization methodology developed

# Prioritization Methodology

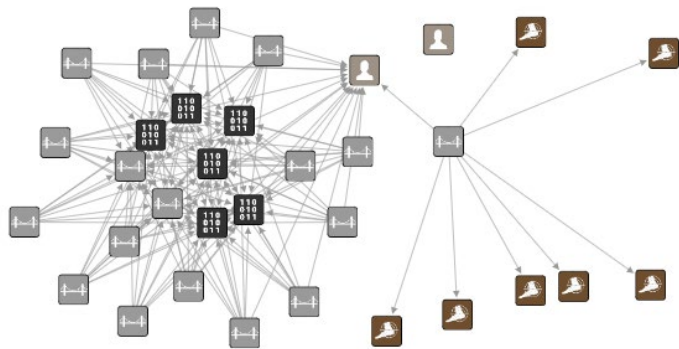
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- Question: What are the most important solar inverters to include in supply chain analysis?
- Challenges
  - No “gold source” list of key solar inverters
  - Cannot collect same data points for all inverters
  - Frequent additions and changes to company names/structures
- Identified criteria based on open-source information for vendors and several lists (allow lists and market research firms)
- Criteria used to weight each option
- Gaps
  - Allow lists target new standards, may exclude older models
  - Focus on 3-phase inverters
  - Market vs. market trends

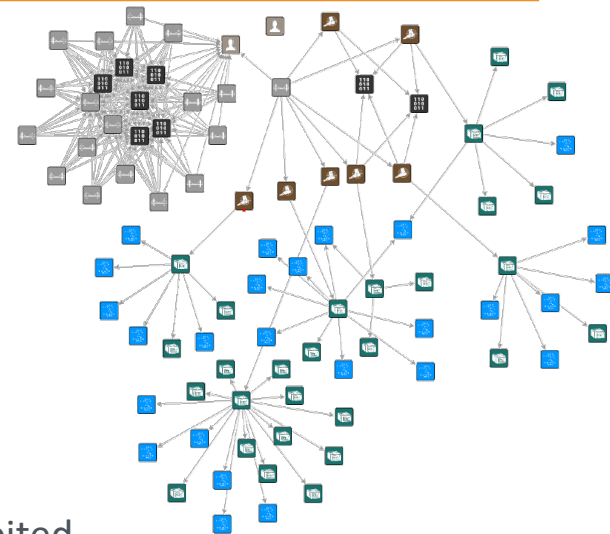
# Codified Attack Surfaces (CAS)

- FY24 Plans:
  - Create limited automated cyber analysis capability to provide indicator and mitigation from current and emerging cyber issues.
  - Apply CAS to solar installations **codified representative architectures** for residential, commercial/industrial and utility scale infrastructures.
    - Notional CAS used for larger cyber analysis centers, such as CESER ETAC
  - Use natural language processing to scrape web information to enrich intelligence and help build representative architectures
- Accomplishments to date:
  - CAS Method Modification
    - Codified attack surfaces for several solar test environments
    - Modeled threats, common weaknesses, and attack paths in STIX
  - Risk score for 16 inverters based on cyber threat observables
    - History of vulnerability processing (flaw remediation evidence)
    - Versions tied to vulnerabilities
    - Days to creation of updates

# WAVgraph Enrichment for 1 Solar Inverter



*Most common weaknesses*  
*Most used attack patterns*



- WAVgraph enrichment adds new vulnerabilities and known exploited vulnerabilities from DHS CISA repository
- Updated STIX style Enforcer includes kill chain capabilities for 2 different kill chain techniques (Lockheed-Martin kill chain, SANS ICS kill chain)

# Questions

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- How important is supply chain security at your organization? What steps are being taken to address supply chain challenges?
- Would you be interested in a virtual version of the CyberStrike STORMCLOUD training?
- What barriers exist for the deployment of open-source tools at your organization?
- Are there challenges for cyber risk analysis at your organization?

INL PI Megan Culler: [megan.culler@inl.gov](mailto:megan.culler@inl.gov)



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# Roadmap for Solar Cybersecurity

IAB Workshop

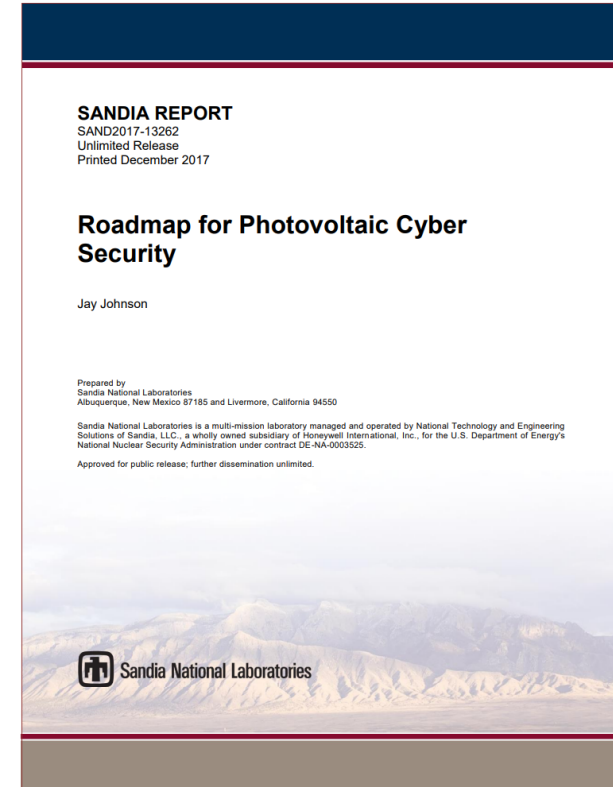
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# Roadmap for Solar PV Cybersecurity

Funded by:



- What?
  - New version of the Roadmap for PV Cybersecurity
  - Near-term, mid-term, and long-term milestones for key cybersecurity focus areas
- Why?
  - 2017 version only looked 5 years out
  - Strategy for SETO, targets for labs and industry
- How?
  - Lab contributions and industry feedback



# Roadmap for Solar PV Cybersecurity

## Contents

- Executive Summary
- National Energy Cybersecurity Efforts
- Solar Energy Technology Landscape
- Solar Cyber Threat Landscape
- Solar Cybersecurity R&D
- Standards Development
- Best Practices
- Stakeholder Roles & Industry Targets

Vision and Milestones

Broader Context

Technology Background

Motivation & Trends

What can labs do?

How to adopt?

How to implement?

Who's responsible?



# A Look Ahead – Where will S2G be?

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- March 26-28 SETO Peer Review
- April 16-28 ESTIG Spring O&M User Group Balance of Plant Roundtable
- May 15-16 SEIA Clean Energy Security and Reliability Forum (in partnership with RE+ Texas)
- July 21 IEEE PES GM: Full day CyberStrike STORMCLOUD tutorial
- Sept. 9-12 RE+: S2G IAB Fall In-Person meeting
- Supply chain webinar coming soon

- Additional comments or questions?