

Erich W. Gunther, P.E., IEEE Fellow
Chairman and CTO, EnerNex Corporation



Erich is the Chairman and Chief Technology Officer of EnerNex Corporation in Knoxville, Tennessee where he helps EnerNex clients define their strategic direction in basic R&D, technology, and product development. Erich has 30 years of experience in the design and development of innovative solutions to a wide array of power system problems, most notably in ways to take advantage of communications networks and technology to improve the efficiency, operating practices, and security of the electric power system.

In 2004, Erich was appointed to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) GridWise Architecture Council for which he now serves as chairman. The council is a team of experts assembled to articulate the guiding principles that constitute the architecture of a future, highly interoperable, intelligent, energy system.

Erich and his team at EnerNex were recognized at the 2007, 2008, and 2010 GridWeek conferences by receiving the GridWeek Smart Grid Award for “Smart Grid Implementation and Deployment Leadership” and most recently was named by GreenTech Media in their Networked Grid 100 list of Movers and Shakers in the Smart Grid, and by FierceEnergy as one of the “Fierce 15 Power Players” for Innovation and Industry Leadership.

Erich and his team are working with leading utilities on their smart grid projects and roadmap development efforts including the California ISO, Consumers Energy, First Energy, Duke Energy, and many others. He and his team are the primary original authors of a significant percentage of the publically available smart grid use cases being widely applied today. He is a primary contractor and partner with EPRI’s IntelliGrid program, founded the UCAIug Open Smart Grid Subcommittee, chairs the UtilityAMI and OpenHAN working groups of the UCAIug and serves as the Chairman of the IEEE PES Intelligent Grid Coordinating Committee. Erich serves on several corporate boards including EnerNex, Smart Grid Labs and the UCAIug as the chairman; and the IEEE Power and Energy Society as a board member.

Most recently, Erich's team was awarded a \$8.5 M contract and follow on contracts to help NIST sustain the accelerated development of the hundreds of standards that will be required to build a secure, interoperable smart electric power grid through the creation and administration of the Smart Grid Interoperability Panel (SGIP).

Erich received his BSEE from Gannon University in 1980 and his Master of Engineering degree in Electric Power Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1984. He is a registered professional engineer in the state of Tennessee, a licensed private helicopter and fixed wing pilot, commercial radiotelephone and ship radar operator (PG204205), and an amateur radio operator (WG3Q).