



May 15, 2014

California Energy Commission  
Docket Office, MS-4  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

California Energy Commission

**DOCKETED**

**12-AAER-2A**

TN 73021

**MAY 15 2014**

**Re: Docket No. 12-AAER-2A, Consumer Electronics**

ARRIS Group, Inc. (“ARRIS”) hereby submits its comments on the California Energy Commission’s Request for Revised Proposals and Information in the Development of Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards for small network equipment.<sup>1</sup> ARRIS shares the Commission’s goal of achieving greater energy efficiency for household appliances. As previously highlighted to the Commission, we are committed to developing innovative energy-efficient equipment solutions.<sup>2</sup> Our commitment to energy efficiency is an integral aspect of improving our offerings and meeting marketplace demand for greener products. Indeed, “conservation through innovation” is part of ARRIS’s global strategy for transforming communications and entertainment.

Just one example of this commitment is ARRIS’s role as a founding member and signatory to the industry-wide Voluntary Agreement for Ongoing Improvement to the Energy Efficiency of Set-Top Boxes.<sup>3</sup> In December 2013, ARRIS joined the U.S. Department of Energy, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), the Appliance Standards Awareness Project (ASAP), the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA), and the National Cable & Telecommunications Association (NCTA) in announcing non-regulatory energy efficiency standards for pay-TV set-top boxes under the Voluntary Agreement that will reduce set-top box energy consumption by up to 45 percent by 2017 and is expected to save consumers more than \$1 billion per year.<sup>4</sup> The Voluntary Agreement holds signatories accountable to these standards and commitments, and makes set-top box energy efficiency more transparent to consumers.<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> California Energy Comm’n (“CEC”), Request for Revised Proposals and Information in the Development of Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards Rulemaking, Docket No. 12-AAER-2A (Jan. 15, 2014).

<sup>2</sup> Comments of ARRIS Group, Inc., CEC Docket No. 12-AAER-2A, at 1-3 (May 9, 2013).

<sup>3</sup> Voluntary Agreement for Ongoing Improvement to the Energy Efficiency of Set-Top Boxes (Jan. 1, 2014) (“Voluntary Agreement” or “Agreement”), available at <http://www.ncta.com/energyagreement>.

<sup>4</sup> Press Release, U.S. Dept. of Energy, *U.S. Energy Department, Pay-Television Industry and Energy Efficiency Groups Announce Set-Top Box Energy Conservation Agreement; Will Cut Energy Use for 90 Million U.S. Households, Save Consumers Billions* (Dec. 23, 2013), available at <http://energy.gov/articles/us-energy-department-pay-television-industry-and-energy-efficiency-groups-announce-set-top>. Other signatories include pay-TV service providers (Comcast, DirecTV, Dish Network, Time Warner Cable, AT&T, Verizon, Cox Communications, Charter Communications, Cablevision Systems Corp., Bright House Networks, and CenturyLink) and equipment manufacturers (Cisco Systems, EchoStar Technologies and Pace).

<sup>5</sup> For example, the Agreement calls for (i) service providers to submit annual confidential compliance reports to the Agreement’s independent administrator; (ii) audits of compliance reports and/or field verification of actual

The Voluntary Agreement's fundamental achievement is that it allows industry leaders to adopt an approach that ensures the realization of energy savings goals without stifling innovation. In contrast, government mandates are ill-equipped to meet the needs of a dynamic marketplace and the rapid pace of technological change.<sup>6</sup> As Senator Feinstein noted in a press release praising the Voluntary Agreement, "[t]his is a big win for nearly every American who pays a monthly television bill because experts tell me *that federal standards could not have produced this much financial and energy savings by 2017.*"<sup>7</sup>

The Voluntary Agreement has been expanded to include specific provisions requiring the parties to commence joint efforts to develop energy efficiency standards for small network equipment.<sup>8</sup> These efforts are already underway, and the parties, including ARRIS, are working to create a voluntary solution that will include concrete energy-efficiency commitments, while also providing equipment manufacturers with the necessary flexibility to continue to innovate. The success of the effort to develop energy standards for set-top boxes demonstrates that the Voluntary Agreement can likewise achieve the Commission's goals for small network equipment without the need for regulation.<sup>9</sup>

In light of the foregoing, ARRIS respectfully requests that the Commission refrain from imposing regulations or standards for residential small network equipment energy efficiency, and instead allow the parties to the Voluntary Agreement to address the issue through that process. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

---

set-top box performance; (iii) posting of set-top box energy efficiency on service providers' websites for subscribers to see; and (iv) creation of aggregate annual reports. Voluntary Agreement §§ 7.1, 7.4, 7.6, 7.8, 8. For example, as part of the transparency requirements under the Agreement, CableLabs hosts a website with the energy usage of new set-top boxes for the six largest cable operators. See CableLabs, *Industry Agreement for Ongoing Improvement to the Energy Efficiency of Set-Top Boxes*, <http://energy.cablelabs.com/> (last visited May 12, 2014).

<sup>6</sup> Importantly, the Voluntary Agreement accommodates innovation and changes in the marketplace by incorporating a new features process and allowing for annual review and revision of the Agreement. Voluntary Agreement §§ 10, 11 & Annex 11.

<sup>7</sup> Press Release, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, *Feinstein Statement on Energy Efficient Set-Top Boxes* (Dec. 23, 2013) (emphasis added), available at <http://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=61fc7d89-6d9b-45e3-95f8-876de78ed6d8>.

<sup>8</sup> See Voluntary Agreement § 2.3.

<sup>9</sup> Indeed, the Warren-Alquist Act requires that the Commission consider alternative approaches prior to adopting standards. See Cal. Pub. Res. Code. § 25402(c)(1).

Sincerely,

/s/ Jason E. Friedrich

Jason E. Friedrich  
Head of U.S. Government &  
Regulatory Affairs  
ARRIS Group, Inc.  
101 Tournament Drive  
Horsham, PA 19044