BACKGROUND
IEA DSM Task IV, Development of Improved Methods for Integrating Demand-Side Management into Resource Planning emerged as a result of the transformations occurring in the electricity supply industry in many countries in the 1990s. These structural changes fundamentally altered the context in which DSM and energy efficiency programs were to be carried out. In particular, these changes altered the justification and motivation for utility businesses to undertake DSM and energy efficiency programs. A backdrop to this global power sector restructuring was increased concern over climate change and other environmental issues pushing for more vigorous work to improve end-use energy efficiency.

IEA DSM TASK IV
The goal of Task IV was to support utilities and governments in the participating countries to consider demand-side options on an equal basis as alternatives or additions to conventional and non-conventional supply-side resources. This Task successfully created a forum for the exchange of experiences as well as an opportunity to develop practical mechanisms for incorporating DSM and energy efficiency in the changing environment of electricity businesses.

Results
A comparative assessment was performed on government and utility power sector planning priorities in IEA-member and non-member countries with a view to their implications for the integration of DSM options into resource planning. As part of this work, information was compiled on the methods, techniques and models for demand forecasting and integrated planning used by utilities and government.

The publication Guidebook on Analytical Methods and Processes for Integrated Planning describes alternative approaches and summarizes examples of how different methodologies have been incorporated. Case studies of successful applications are documented and guidelines provided on how to transfer processes, methods, techniques and models for incorporating DSM in resource planning from one country to another. Also, issues related to differences in market conditions, supply characteristics, utility structure, regulatory environments, pricing and tariff structures and government policies are addressed.

Three workshops were held to share results on mechanisms to promote DSM and energy efficiency in new business environments.

Reports
Two reports are available to download from the Task IV page of the DSM web site:
- Guidebook on Analytical Methods and Processes for Integrated Planning
- Preliminary Concepts for New Mechanisms for Promoting DSM and Energy Efficiency in New Electricity Business Environments

Participants
Australia Italy Spain
Austria Japan Sweden
Denmark Korea United Kingdom
Finland Netherlands United States
France Norway

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Operating Agent
Grayson Heffner
Electric Power Research Institute, United States

Task IV Website
http://www.ieadsm.org/ViewTask.aspx?ID=17&Task=4&Sort=1