

For Immediate Release
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InfraGard Launches EMP Special Interest Group

Washington, DC – InfraGard announces the launch of a nationwide special interest group (SIG) that will focus on threats that could cause nationwide long-term critical infrastructure collapse. Named the EMP SIG, after electromagnetic pulse, the SIG will cover all similarly dangerous hazards such as extreme space weather, coordinated physical attack, cyber attack or pandemics.

One of the SIG's first activities will be the co-sponsorship with the US Congressional EMP Caucus and the National Defense University of a nationwide conference, "Severe Space Weather Threats to the US Electrical Grids" planned for Oct 6, 2011 from 830 AM to 3 PM at the US Capitol Visitors Center Auditorium. This conference will provide initial reports on planning workshops and an exercise representing the first comprehensive efforts by federal, state, local government and the private sector to examine the potential for prolonged nationwide power outages and their cascading effects and begin mitigation efforts. The InfraGard National EMP SIG plans to assist in organizing private sector critical infrastructure stakeholders who wish to mitigate these threats and make their local communities more resilient.

To register for the OCT 6 conference, see <http://solarexercise.eventbrite.com>. Any InfraGard member can join the EMP SIG. If you are not an InfraGard member you can join via the website at www.InfraGard.org and clicking on the "Apply for Membership" button. There is no charge for membership in InfraGard or the EMP SIG. Conference participation is also free-of-charge because of generous support by SAIC. For additional information on the InfraGard EMP SIG feel free to email the EMP SIG manager, Chuck Manto at cmanto@stop-EMP.com or InfraGard National Members Alliance Managing Director Stephen Ewell at sewell@infragardnational.org.

About InfraGard and the InfraGard National Members Alliance

The InfraGard Program began in 1996 as a collaborative effort between private sector cyber professionals and the FBI field office in Cleveland Ohio. The FBI later expanded the program to each of the FBI's 56 field offices. In 2003 the private sector members of InfraGard formed the "InfraGard National Members Alliance" (INMA). The INMA is a non-profit Delaware LLC with 501(c)3 status. The INMA LLC is comprised of 86 separate 501(c)3 InfraGard Member Alliances (IMAs) representing over 45,000 FBI-vetted, InfraGard Subject Matter Experts. The INMA has a dual-focus value proposition. First, InfraGard provides its members with unmatched opportunities to promote the physical and cyber security of their organizations, through access to a trusted, national network of Subject Matter Experts from the public and private sectors. Secondly, it provides government stakeholders, at the local, state, and Federal levels, with unmatched access to the expertise and experience of critical infrastructure owners and operators.

For more information about InfraGard, please visit www.infragard.net. For more information about the INMA, please visit www.infragardmembers.org.