Report on activities of the ECHONET Consortium (Jan.-Mar. 2020)

Classification	Current activities
Topics	(1)On February 7, the Twelfth ECHONET Forum was held at the Large Hall, Seavans S Building. This year, we worked intensively to promote ECHONET Lite promotion activities overseas, including international standardization activities for ECHONET Lite AIF specifications and our participation in overseas exhibitions. We gave lectures and presentations　on this forum about a focus on our efforts to promote increased use of the specifications overseas. The forum was a success with 93 total participants from 58 companies, including lecturers and staff. (2)Exhibited at ENEX/Smart Energy Japan 2020 (Jan 29–31, 2019) held at Tokyo Big Sight. At the exhibition, we co-sponsored a booth with the Smart House Research Center, Kanagawa Institute of Technology, with the support of the Japan Federation of Housing Organizations (JUDANREN) and the Japan Electrical Manufacturers' Association (JEMA). At the booth, the products and technologies of 18 companies including member companies were exhibited and free consultations on compliance certification for AIF specifications　were held. (3)Released the "Guidelines for ensuring the reliability of the entire ECHONET Lite system installed with ECHONET Lite devices, First Edition". (4)Published the ECHONET Detailed Requirements for Device Objects Release M with newly added "Kitchen range hoods class" and "Dishwasher and dryer class" for the general public. (5)In response to the current outbreak of COVID-19, we are trying to hold the Consortium meetings and talks (Board of Directors Meeting, Committee, and working groups) via phone or online. Our secretariat is also taking measures to work remotely.
Planning and Steering Committee	(1)Held the Second ECHONET Forum as follows. ・Date: 1:30PM—6:00PM, Friday, February 7, 2020 ・Venue: Large Hall, Seavans S Building 1F ・Participants: 93 participants from 58 companies (including lecturers and staff) ・Special lecture: "Expectations for making ECHONET Lite specifications into international standards", by Dr. Masao Isshiki, professor at the Kanagawa Institute of Technology ・Other lectures were given on topics such as: overview of the Smart Community Project given by TEPCO Power Grid Inc. and NextDrive Ltd., which is being promoted in Tainan City, Taiwan. In addition, we reported on the status of proposal activities to the international standard of SO / IEC JTC1 SC25 of AIF specification between the air conditioner and the HEMS controller, exhibitions held in Europe and Asia, and efforts to cooperate with European standardization organizations. For more details, see the ECHONET Consortium website. (2)Held deliberations to review an internal audit conducted on 7 certification bodies and 7 test laboratories, and decided to maintain the current system in 2020. (3)Committee Draft for Votes (CDV) were launched in multiple countries to make the ECHONET Lite AIF specifications (ISO/IEC14543-4-301: Application Protocols for Home Air Conditioners and Controllers) into international standards. After the voting deadline (April 2020), we will reply to comments and become an international standard by the end of 2020 at the earliest.
Technical Committee	(1)ECHONET Lite specifications/System Design Guidelines ・To realize ECHONET 2.0, the "Guidelines for ensuring the reliability of the entire ECHONET Lite system installing ECHONET Lite devices, First Edition" was released to the general public, in order to clarify that ECHONET Lite devices make a contribution to IoT-based society. (February 2020) ・The English version of "ECHONET Lite System Design Guideline 2nd Edition", which was released to the public in June 2019, has been released. (March 2020) (2)Detailed Requirements for Device Objects ・Published the ECHONET Detailed Requirements for Device Objects Release M with newly added "Kitchen range hoods class" and "Dishwasher and dryer class" for the general public. (March 2020) (3)Application Communication Interface Specifications ・Released the Application Communication Interface Specifications between home air conditioners and HEMS controllers Version 1.10 and certification test specifications (for home air conditioners and HEMS controllers) to members. (January 2020) ・Released the Application Communication Interface Specifications between Hybrid Water Heaters and HEMS controllers Version 1.00 and certification test specifications (for hybrid water heaters and HEMS controllers) to members only. (March 2020) (4)Test tools ・Improved functions and took necessary actions for new AIF devices, and then released the AIF certification test tool aif_tool-1.4.0 (test tools for devices other than smart electric meters)　and sma-tools-1.12G-R9 (tools for low/high-voltage smart electric energy meters) to members only. (March 2020) (5)ECHONET Lite Web API ・Released the device specifications section (Ver.1.1.1) of the ECHONET Lite Web API Guidelines (Ver.1.1.0) that was released in November 2019, after correcting clerical errors on JSON notation section. (March 2020) ・Released the revised experimental cloud as stipulated in the device specifications section of the ECHONET Lite Web API Guidelines (Ver.1.1.1) as member-only content. (March 2020) (6)Holding of Plug Fest events ・On February 13–14, the 23rd Plug Fest was held at the HEMS Test Center, Kanagawa Institute of Technology. This time, members of eight teams from eight companies participated.

Promotion Committee	(1)Exhibited at the ENEX/Smart Energy Japan 2020 as follows: ・Date: January 20 (Wed.)–31 (Fri), 2020 ・Venue: Tokyo Big Sight South 1 and 2 Hall ・we co-sponsored a booth with the Smart House Research Center, Kanagawa Institute of Technology, with the support of the Japan Federation of Housing Organizations (JUDANREN) and the Japan Electrical Manufacturers' Association (JEMA). At the booth, the products and technologies of 18 companies including member companies were exhibited and free consultations on compliance certification for AIF specifications were held. Published the exhibition details and photos of member companies taken at the venue on the ECHONET Consortium website. ・At the seminar titled "Let's create IoT smart houses!", the following lectures were given: "Making people happy with Smarthouses" by Prof. Issiki Masao, Kanagawa Institute of Technology "Introduction of our efforts": Sekisui Chemical Co., Ltd and PPS Ooita Co., Ltd. "Introduction of our products and technologies": Japan Electric Meters Inspection Corporation (JEMIC), Fuji Kogyo Co., Ltd., NALTEC, Inc., Rinnai Corporation, YAMATO DENKI Co., Ltd., Nippon Systemware Co., Ltd., Okaya & Co., Ltd., Bunka Shutter Co., Ltd., TÜV Rheinland Japan Ltd., MEDIOTEC Co., Ltd., NTT Comware Corporation, and Telephone West Corporation.