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(54) **ELECTRICAL RESOURCE CONTROLLER**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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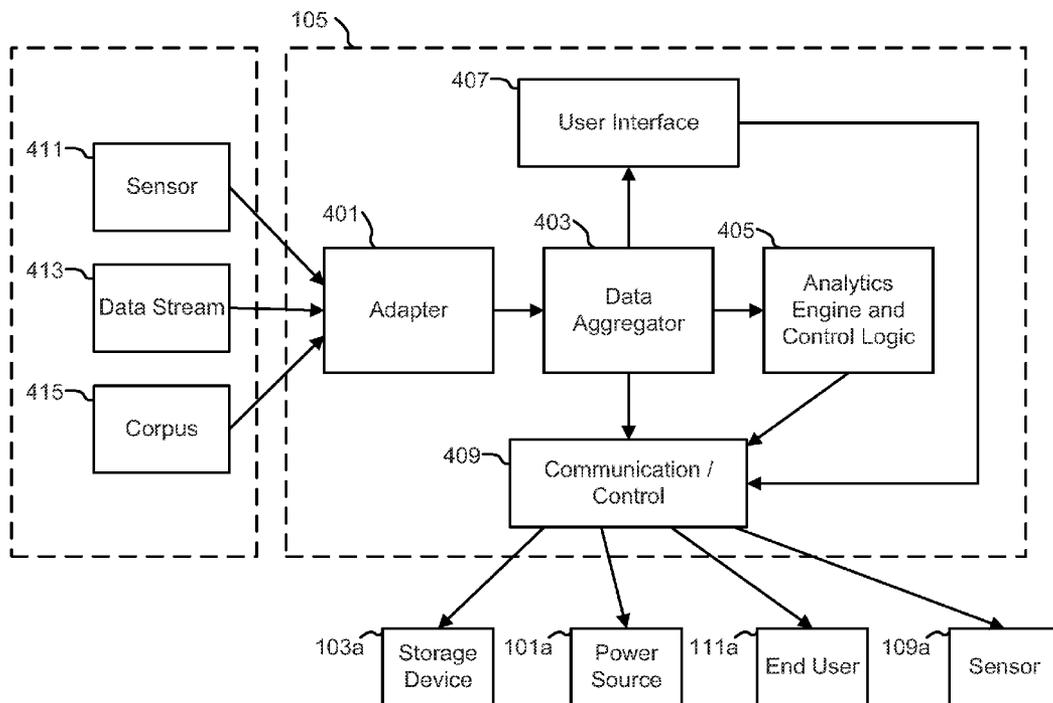
In an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure, an electrical system is provided. The system comprises a controller including a plurality of machine implemented processing sequences. The electrical system also includes a plurality of sensors configured to receive input related to the environmental conditions of the environment surrounding the plurality of sensors and transmit the input to the controller, at least one power source in electrical communication with the controller. The electrical system further includes at least one storage device in electrical communication with the controller, and at least one device sensor in communication with an end user. The at least one device sensor includes memory, and the memory includes priority information regarding the priority of a device associated with the at least one device sensor. The at least one device sensor is operable to transmit information to the controller.

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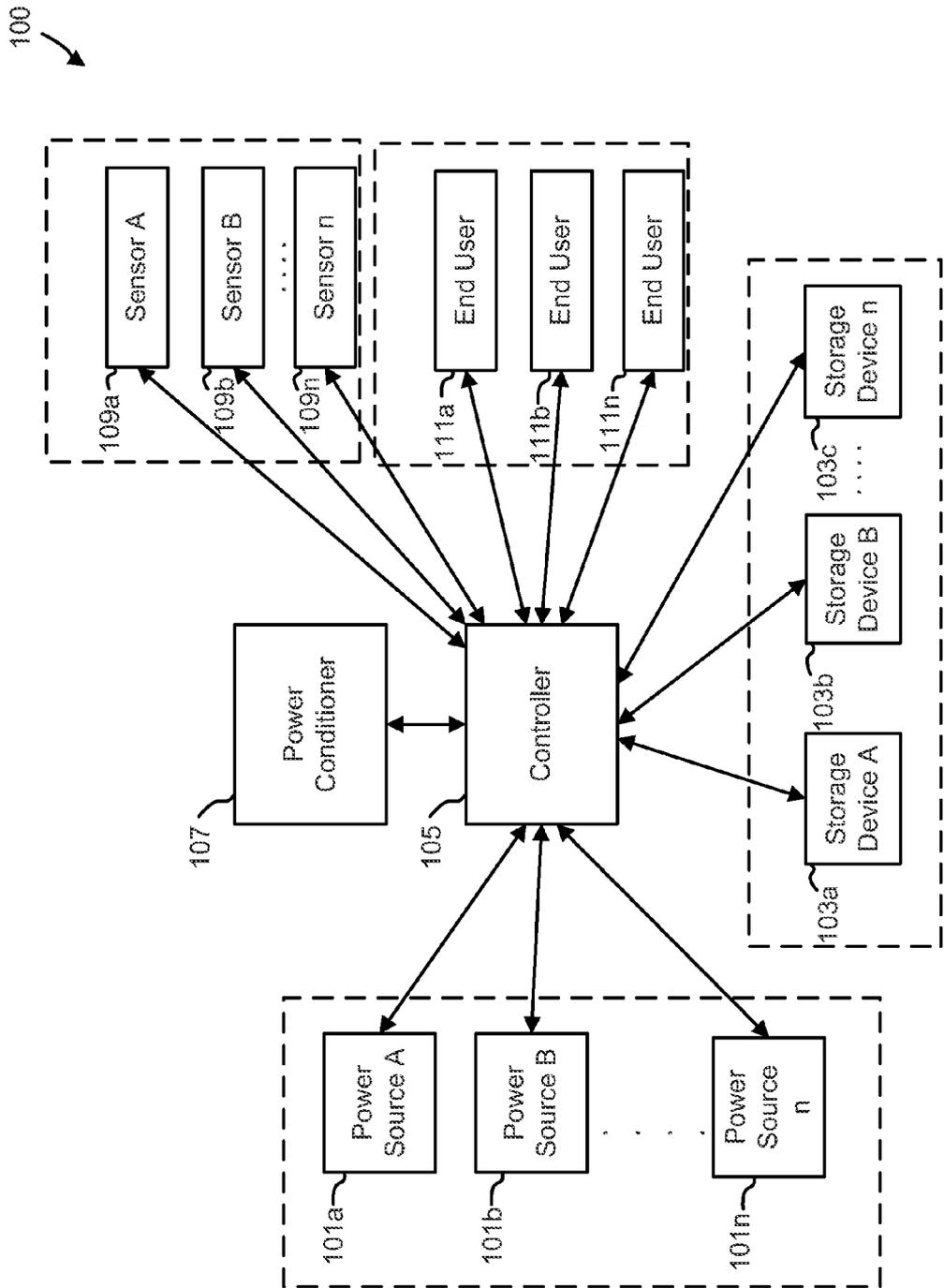


Figure 1

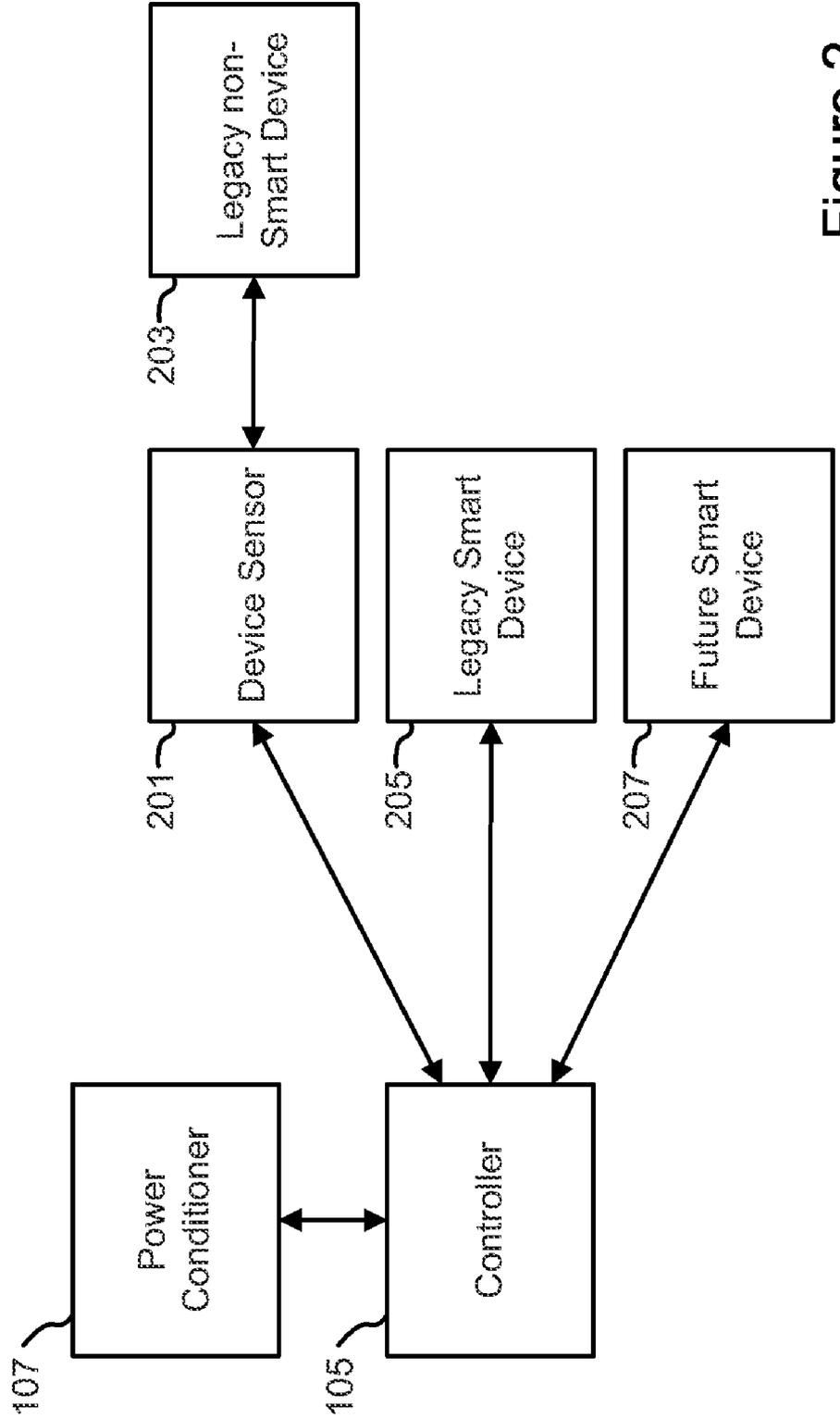


Figure 2

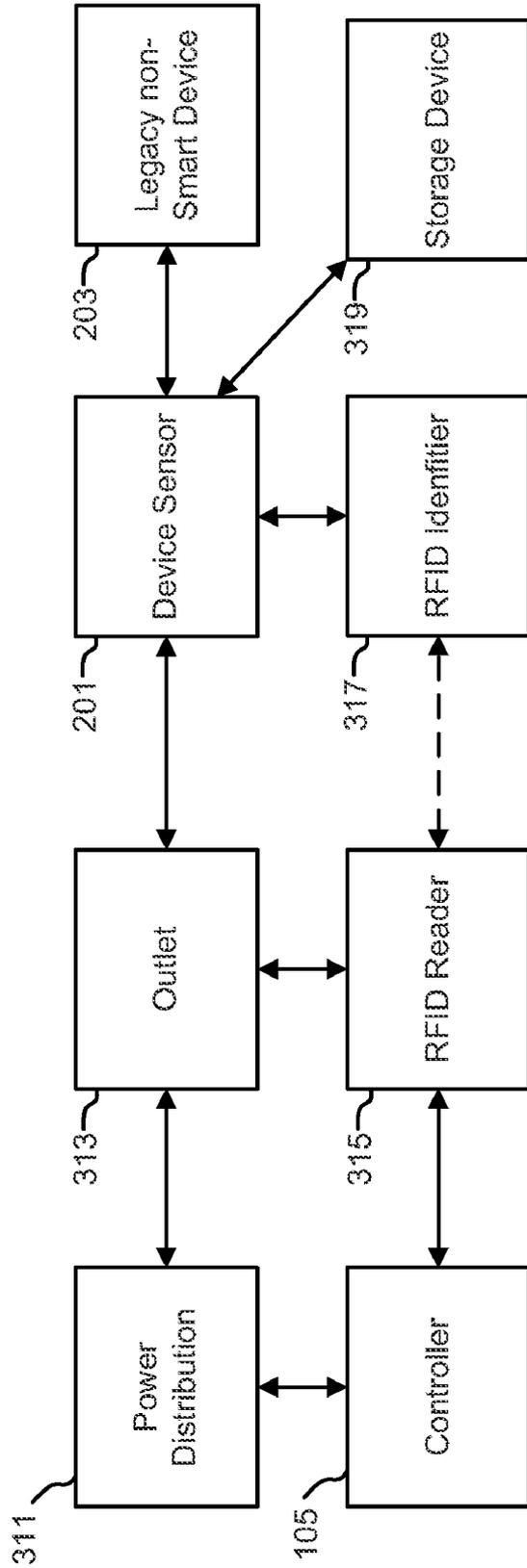


Figure 3

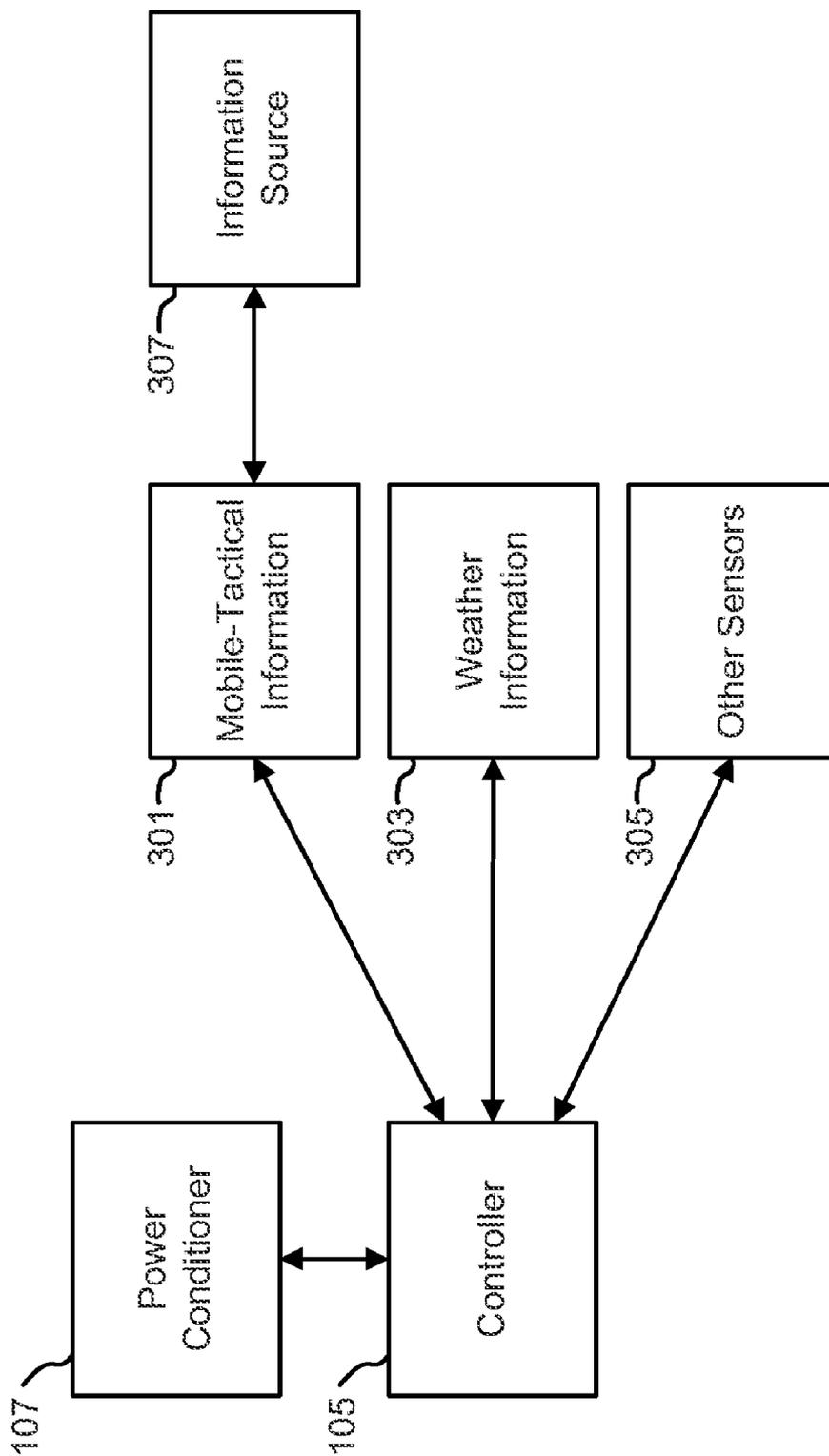


Figure 4

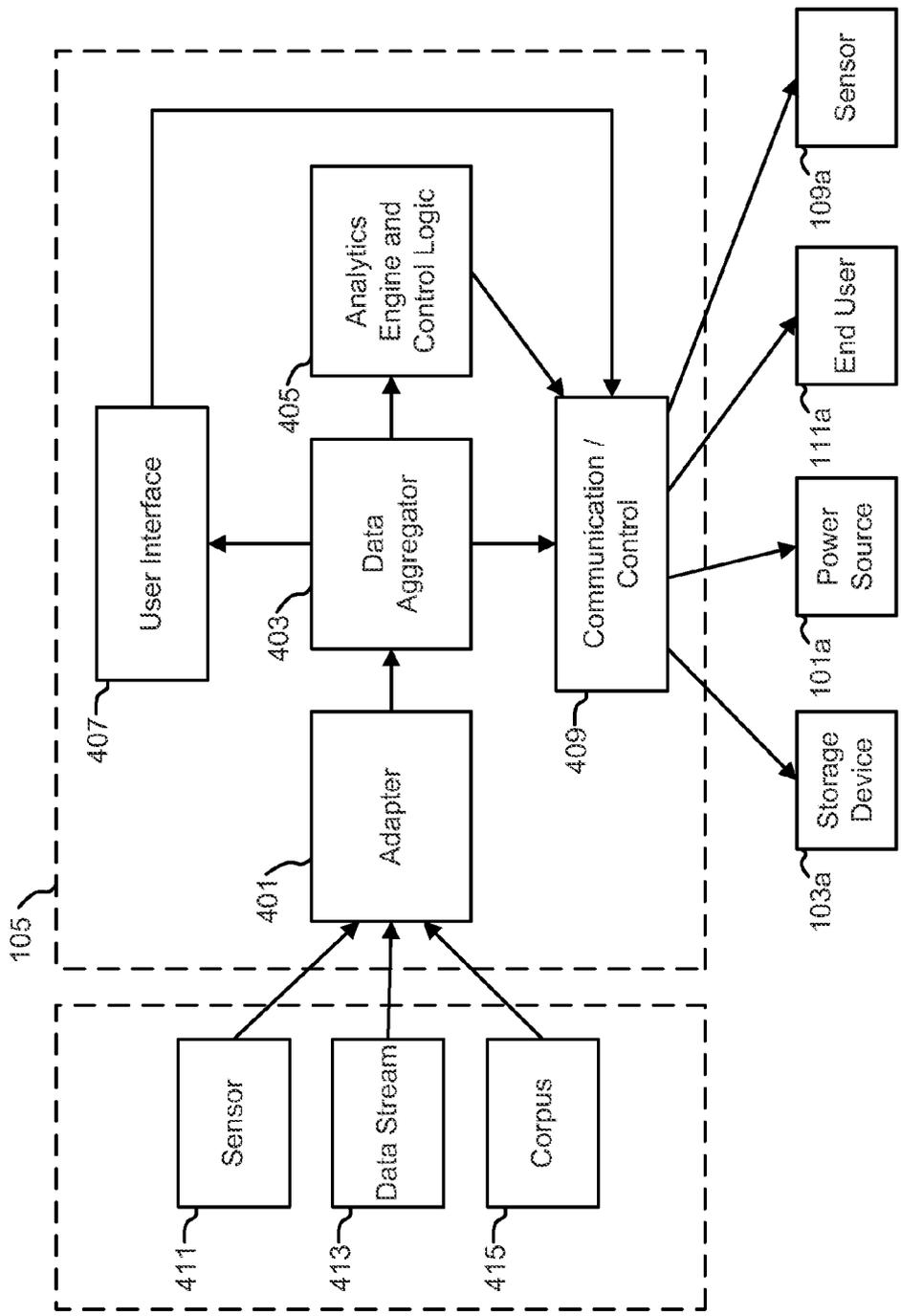


Figure 5

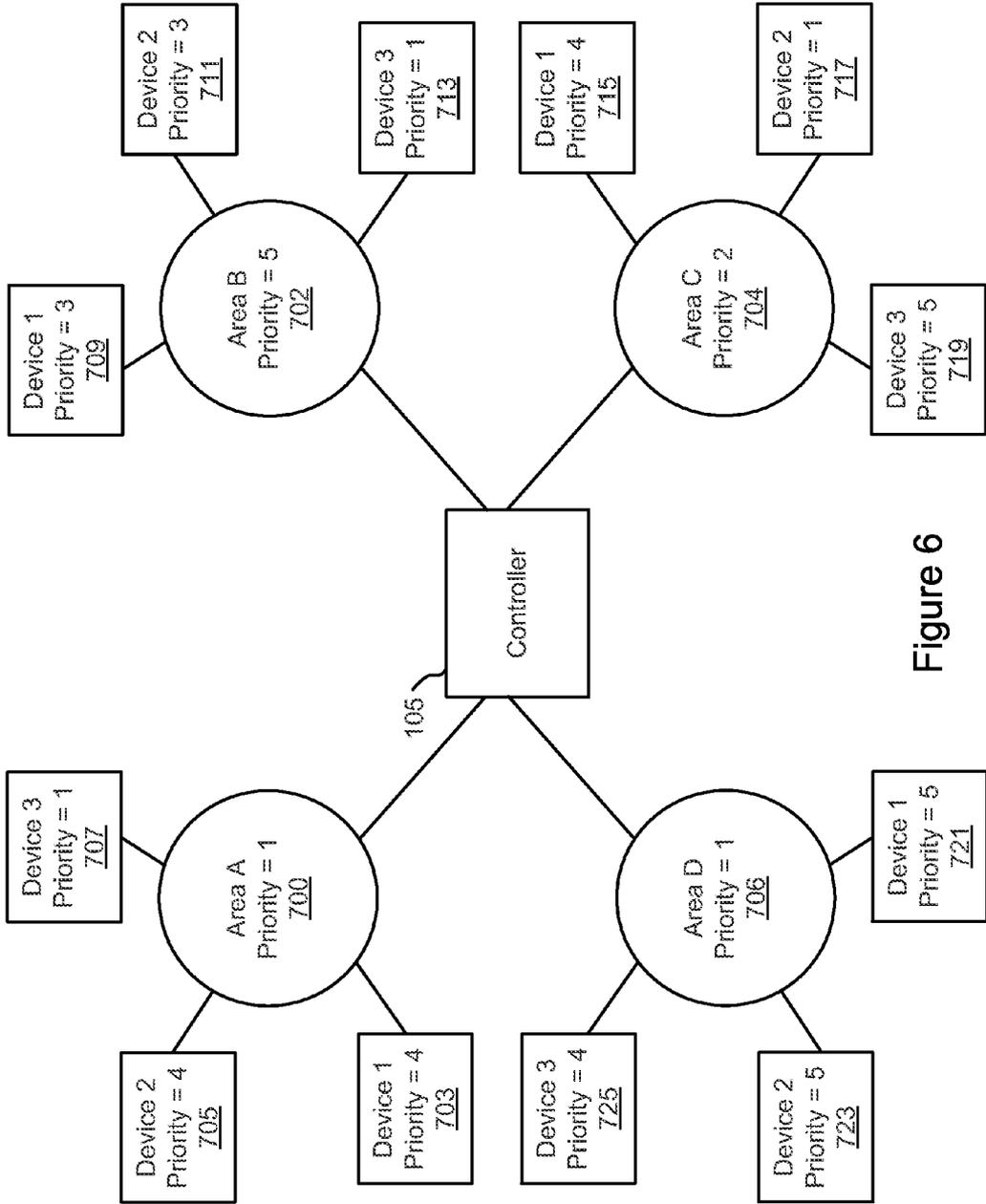


Figure 6

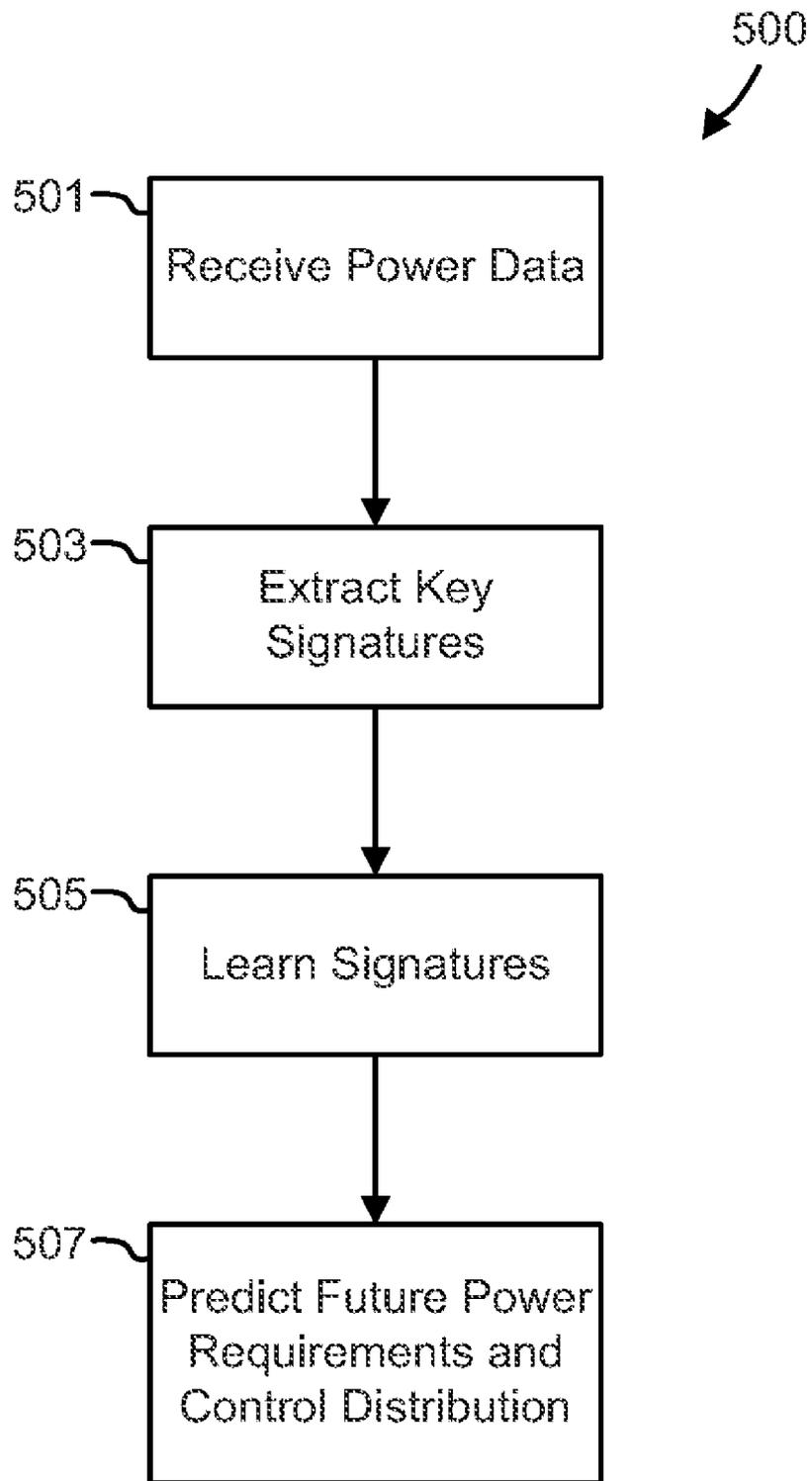


Figure 7

ELECTRICAL RESOURCE CONTROLLERSTATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY
SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

[0001] The invention described herein was made in the performance of official duties by employees of the Department of the Navy and may be manufactured, used and licensed by or for the United States Government for any governmental purpose without payment of any royalties thereon.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates generally to devices to control and distribute electricity. In many electrical systems, remote location may not be in communication with local, regional, national, or international electrical grids. In other electrical systems, a location may have requirements in order to sustain electrical operations while an electrical grid is offline or operating at a limited capacity (i.e., insufficient for demand). Additionally, the deployment of a number of small generators to fulfill electrical needs on a small scale may be inefficient, as the small generators may not be as robust as a fewer number of larger generators, and transporting fuel to many generators may be expensive, time consuming, or dangerous.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0003] In an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure, an electrical system is provided. The system comprises a controller including a plurality of machine implemented processing sequences. The electrical system also includes a plurality of sensors configured to receive input related to the environmental conditions of the environment surrounding the plurality of sensors and transmit the input to the controller, at least one power source in electrical communication with the controller. The electrical system further includes at least one storage device in electrical communication with the controller, and at least one device sensor in communication with an end user. The at least one device sensor includes memory, and the memory includes priority information regarding the priority of a device associated with the at least one device sensor. The at least one device sensor is operable to transmit information to the controller. The controller selectively energizes or deenergizes the devices associated with the at least one device sensor based at least in part on the priority information associated with each of the at least one device sensors and on the available energy produced by the at least one power source.

[0004] In an additional exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure, the controller of the electrical system utilizes an analytics engine to make power planning decisions, the analytics engine comprising first, second, and third plurality of processing sequences, wherein the first plurality of processing sequences is adapted to perform interface activities with a plurality of potential disruption event databases, the second plurality of processing sequences is adapted to perform business analytics processing based on a plurality of business analytics data, and the third plurality of processing sequences is adapted to produce a plurality of outputs comprising first, second, and third outputs. The potential disruption event databases comprise data from sensors, command and control facilities, weather sources including tsunami reporting, and other real time event reporting databases

including national security, civil defense, weather, and intelligence threat databases. The plurality of business analytics data comprises network component data, network data, node power requirements, node chain power consumption data, equipment or function priority data, location data, power grid data, supported entity/mission data, predicted power disruption impact data, power disruption cost data, threat to life indicator, threat to property indicator, threat to critical infrastructure indicator, threat to critical subsystem indicator, lost opportunity cost from disruption data, and predicted time of disruption data. The first output comprises a network disruption prediction report comprising a list of network nodes, missions, locations or other elements which are presently at risk or are predicted to be at risk within 72 hours or less based on outputs from the first, second, and third processing sequences, the plurality of business analytics data, the data from the potential disruption event database, and data provided by the at least one device sensor. The second output comprises a list and at least one network diagram showing a plurality of proposed network disruption prevention actions determined based on: outputs from the first, second, and third processing sequences, the plurality of business analytics data, the data from the potential disruption event database, and data provided by the at least one device sensor. The third output comprises a critical path listing showing critical elements, nodes, or links from the first output with a proposed corrective action, including corrective actions which are automatically implemented by the electrical system.

[0005] In another exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure, an electrical system controller is disclosed. The electrical system controller includes a plurality of machine implemented processing sequences, and comprises an adapter to receive data from one or more inputs, including a plurality of sensors operable to receive input related to the environment. The electrical system controller also includes a data aggregator to receive data from the adapter and group the data, an analytics engine to receive the grouped data from the data aggregator and analyze the data, and a control module to receive commands from the analytics engine and relay the commands to one or more devices. The at least one device sensor is in communication with an end user. The at least one device sensor includes memory, and the memory includes priority information regarding the priority of a device associated with the at least one device sensor. The at least one device sensor is operable to transmit information to the adapter. The control module selectively energizes or deenergizes the devices associated with the at least one device sensor based at least in part on the priority information associated with each of the at least one device sensors and on the available energy produced by at least one power source.

[0006] In yet another exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure, a method for predicting electrical requirements is disclosed. The method comprises receiving data from one or more inputs, including at least one sensor operable to receive input related to the environment and at least one device sensor operable to receive data from one or more end users regarding power usage and future requirements. The at least one device sensor includes memory, and the memory includes priority information regarding the priority of a device associated with the at least one device sensor. The at least one device sensor is operable to transmit information. The method further includes extracting key signatures from the data received from the one or more inputs, learning the key signatures extracted from the data received from the one or more inputs,

and predicting future power requirements associated with the key signatures. The method further includes controlling power generation, storage, and distribution according to the predicted future power requirements by selectively energizing or deenergizing the devices associated with the at least one device sensor based at least in part on the priority information associated with each of the at least one device sensors and on the available energy produced by at least one power source.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0007] The foregoing aspects and many of the attendant advantages of this invention will become more readily appreciated as the same become better understood by reference to the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

[0008] FIG. 1 is a diagrammatic view of a controller and associated power units according to an illustrative embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0009] FIG. 2 is a diagrammatic view of a controller and powered devices according to an illustrative embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0010] FIG. 3 is a diagrammatic view of a non-smart device and device sensor in relation to an outlet and a controller;

[0011] FIG. 4 is a diagrammatic view of a controller and input sensors according to an illustrative embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0012] FIG. 5 is a diagrammatic view of controller components receiving and analyzing data according to an illustrative embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0013] FIG. 6 is an exemplary diagram of a group of areas and a group of devices, each having a priority according to an illustrative embodiment of the present disclosure; and

[0014] FIG. 7 is a flow chart depicting data acquisition and analysis according to an illustrative embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0015] Corresponding reference characters indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views. Although the drawings represent embodiments of various features and components according to the present disclosure, the drawings are not necessarily to scale and certain features may be exaggerated in order to better illustrate and explain the present disclosure. The exemplification set out herein illustrates embodiments of the invention, and such exemplifications are not to be construed as limiting the scope of the invention in any manner.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0016] For the purposes of promoting an understanding of the principles of the invention, reference will now be made to the embodiments illustrated in the drawings, which are described below. The embodiments disclosed below are not intended to be exhaustive or limit the invention to the precise form disclosed in the following detailed description. Rather, the embodiments are chosen and described so that others skilled in the art may utilize their teachings. It will be understood that no limitation of the scope of the invention is thereby intended. The invention includes any alterations and further modifications in the illustrated devices and described methods and further applications of the principles of the invention which would normally occur to one skilled in the art to which the invention relates.

[0017] Referring to FIG. 1, a diagrammatic view of a controller 105 and associated power units in an electrical system 100 is shown according to an illustrative embodiment of the present disclosure. A controller 105 receives power from one or more power sources 101a-101n, and the controller 105 may be in communication with a power conditioner 107. The controller 105 may receive data from one or more sensors 109a-109n, and may store electricity in one or more storage devices 103a-103n, and may deliver the electricity to one or more end users.

[0018] In an embodiment, the controller 105 and associated power units in an electrical system 100 may be arranged on land, and may be relatively close together. For example, the electrical system 100 may be located in an encampment or smaller group, such as a building, home, or hospital. In another embodiment, the controller 105 and associated power units in the electrical system 100 may be arranged in a wider distribution, such as in support of a city or town. In yet another embodiment, the controller 105 and associated power units in the electrical system 100 may be arranged on a naval vessel. Other examples may include, but are not limited to, aircraft, submarines, or spacecraft.

[0019] The controller 105 may receive input from the power conditioner 107, the one or more power sources 101a-101n, the one or more storage devices 103a-103n, the one or more sensors 109a-109n, and the one or more end users. The controller 105 may perform analysis on the inputs, and may adjust power generation, storage, and distribution according to the input data. In one embodiment, the controller 105 includes one or more electronic processors to analyze the inputs. The controller 105 may also include one or more analog to digital converters, to convert analog inputs from one or more of the sources into digital inputs.

[0020] The power conditioner 107 may receive electricity from the power sources 101a-101n and the storage devices 103a-103n, and may normalize the output of the electricity, or may adjust the received electricity from the power sources 101a-101n and the storage devices 103a-103n in other ways. Additionally, the power conditioner 107 may adjust electricity received from the power sources 101a-101n before it is transmitted to the storage devices 103a-103n. For example, and without limitation, the power conditioner 107 may convert the electricity received from the power sources 101a-101n from alternating current (AC) to direct current (DC), or vice versa, so that it may be stored in the storage devices 103a-103n. The power conditioner 107 may operate in communication with the controller 105. For example, data transmitted to the controller 105 may be transmitted, either wirelessly or via a wired connection, to the power conditioner 107. In an embodiment, the power conditioner 107 may receive data input from the power sources 101a-101n and/or the storage devices 103a-103n, and may transmit the data input to the controller 105. Additionally, the power conditioner 107 may transmit additional data regarding the type, amount, or quality of electricity generated by the power sources 101a-101n, or stored or removed from the power sources 101a-101n, or other data regarding the generation and/or storage of electricity.

[0021] The power conditioner 107 may include, but is not limited to one or more electronic power control and conditioning (EPCC) systems, sensors 109a-109n deployed with the controller 105, the power conditioner 107, the power sources, and/or the storage devices 103a-103n, one or more artificial intelligence alternative energy (AIAE) systems and/

or one or more electronic power control and conditioning (EPCC) modules or systems, or other mobile configurations.

[0022] The power sources, denoted as **101a** to **101n**, may be in electrical communication with either the controller **105** or the power conditioner **107**, or both, and may communicate data and/or electricity.

[0023] The power sources **101a-101n** may include, but are not limited to photovoltaic and/or solar cell power generators, concentrated solar power generators, fossil fuel generators, including gasoline or diesel fuel powered generators, wind turbine or other wind-based power generators, pyrolysis power generators, fuel cell power generators, geothermal power generators, hydroelectric power generators, wave powered power generators, nuclear generators or generators associated with one or more nuclear power plants, or other mobile or fixed power generators. The power sources **101a-101n** may also include a connection to a local, national, or international electrical grid. The power sources **101a-101n** may include one or more power generation units. For example, a power source may include more than one fossil fuel generator, or more than one wind turbine or panel of solar cells. The power sources **101a-101n** may provide electricity in different forms and amounts. For example, a power source may provide AC current, and another power source may provide DC current. The power sources **101a-101n** may also provide different voltages, amperages, or frequencies. The power sources **101a-101n** may also provide different amounts or types of electricity depending on time. For example, a diesel fuel power generator may provide one amount of electricity at one time, and a different amount at another time.

[0024] The power sources **101a-101n** may provide data regarding the type or amount of power that is generated, or may provide additional data to the controller **105** and/or the power conditioner **107**. For example, and without limitation, the power sources **101a-101n** may provide maintenance data, fault indicators, amount of fuel remaining, operating temperatures, current or past status, future operating requirements, or other operating characteristics. The power sources **101a-101n** may also accept data. For example, and without limitation, the power sources **101a-101n** may accept data regarding the status or other characteristics of other power sources, storage devices **103a-103n**, control information, or future operating parameters. Control information may include, but is not limited to, instructions to start generating electricity, instructions to vary the amount or type of electricity generated, or instructions to shut down.

[0025] The storage devices, denoted as **103a** to **103n**, may include chemical or mechanical energy storage. The storage devices **103a-103n** may be used to store electricity generated by the power sources **101a-101n**, or may be in communication with the controller **105** and/or the power conditioner **107** in a charged state. The storage devices **103a-103n** may include, but are not limited to dry and/or wet cell batteries, rechargeable batteries, for example lithium-ion, lithium, nickel-metal hydride, nickel cadmium, lead-acid, or other types of rechargeable batteries, capacitors, fly-wheel energy storage systems, hydraulic energy storage systems, the creation of biofuels, the storage or heated or superheated liquids or solids, steam based systems, pressure based systems, or other mobile configurations.

[0026] The storage devices **103a-103n** may provide data regarding the type or amount of energy that is stored, or may provide additional data to the controller **105** and/or the power

conditioner **107**. For example, and without limitation, the power sources **101a-101n** may provide maintenance data, fault indicators, amount of energy remaining in the storage device, operating temperatures, current or past status, future operating requirements, or other operating characteristics. The storage devices **103a-103n** may also accept data. For example, and without limitation, the storage devices **103a-103n** may accept data regarding the status or other characteristics of power sources **101a-101n** and/or other storage devices **103a-103n**, control information, or future operating parameters. Control information may include, but is not limited to, instructions to provide electricity, instructions to vary the amount or type of electricity provided, or instructions to shut down.

[0027] The end users, denoted as **111a** to **111n** in FIG. 1 and also described with reference to FIG. 2, may be one or more components or devices that use electricity to perform functions. For example, and without limitation, an end user may comprise a computer or computer system or a mechanical device. An end user may also comprise a group of components. The end user may be a distribution node for distribution of electricity to address the demands of a facility, a part of a facility, or a group of devices that use electricity to perform functions.

[0028] Shown in FIG. 2, the end user device may be a “smart” device **205**, **207** or a “non-smart” device **203**, and smart devices may be “legacy” **205** or “future” **207** smart devices. A smart device **205**, **207** is one that is able to receive information from a controller **105** and use the received information to enable additional features, or is able to transmit information to the controller **105**. For example, and without limitation, a smart device **205**, **207** may be able to receive information or commands from the controller **105** to shut down, or to reduce the electrical demands on the controller **105**, and may be able to perform steps in response to the commands or information received from the controller **105**. A smart device **205**, **207** may also be able to send information to the controller **105** regarding the device’s current and/or future electrical demands, or other information related to the electrical requirements or maintenance of the device. A non-smart device **203** is a device that is not able to receive information from the controller **105**, or is not able to transmit information to the controller **105**.

[0029] A legacy smart device is a device that uses known protocols for receiving information from the controller **105** and transmitting information to the controller **105**. The controller **105** may be able to decrypt and/or decode the information received from the legacy smart device **205**, and may be able to format information so that the legacy smart device **205** may be able to decrypt and/or decode the information.

[0030] A future smart device is a device that may use known protocols, or may use currently unknown protocols for receiving information from the controller **105** and transmitting information to the controller **105**. The controller **105** may be able to be updated with additional protocols to replace or add to the one or more protocols of the legacy smart devices **205**, so that the controller **105** may be reprogrammed to receive and/or decrypt information from the future smart device **207**, and may transmit information to be decrypted and/or decoded by the future smart device **207**. The future protocols may be provided to the controller **105**, or the controller **105** may interact with the future smart device **207** to learn the new protocols, or the future smart device **207** may provide the controller **105** with the new protocols.

[0031] A legacy non-smart device 203 may not be able to communicate directly with the controller 105, and so a device sensor 201 may be placed between the controller 105 and the legacy non-smart device 203. The device sensor 201 may receive information from and transmit information to the controller 105, and may interact with the legacy non-smart device 203, so that the legacy non-smart device 203 may appear to the controller 105 to be a smart device. The device sensor 201 may interact with the legacy non-smart device 203 to allow the legacy non-smart device 203 to perform the commands that the controller 105 transmits to the device sensor 201. For example, the device sensor 201 may have the ability to turn the legacy non-smart device 203 on or off, or may have the ability to collect power requirement data from the legacy non-smart device 203.

[0032] FIG. 3 shows a diagrammatic view of a non-smart device 203 and device sensor 201 in relation to an outlet 313 and a controller 105. A user plugs a device 203 into an outlet 313. The device 203 has an identification device that is encoded with one or more codes. The codes may be, for example and without limitation, a string of letters, numbers, and/or other characters, or another identifier that is readable and presents one or more inputs to a reader. The identifier may be a code that is unique to the device 203, or may contain one or more codes. For example, and without limitation, the identifier may include a unique code, so that every device 203 has a unique identifier. In another embodiment, the identifier may include a code that is not unique to the device 203, along with a code that is unique to the device 203. For example, a non-unique code may include a model code, or a code designating a use or type of equipment, or a code designating the power requirements of the device 203, or a code designating the priority of the device 203. In another embodiment, the identifier is not unique to the device 203, but includes one or more non-unique codes as described above. A unique identifier may include a serial number or other generated code so that a device 203 is uniquely identified.

[0033] The device sensor 201 may also include one or more storage devices 319. The storage devices 319 are capable of storing and recalling information stored within the storage device 319. The storage device 319 may be a rewritable memory such as random access memory or an updatable or rewritable memory capable of continuing to store information when electricity is no longer applied. The storage device 319 may also include a hard disk or other fixed or removable medium. The storage device 319 may store information related to, for example and without limitation, historical trends of electricity usage by the device 203, identification of the device 203, including priority or other identifiers, or other information. The information may be updatable by the device sensor 201, or the controller 105 may update the information via, for example, a network connection or other connection between the controller 105 and the device sensor 201.

[0034] In one embodiment, the identification device is a radio frequency identification device (“RFID”). The RFID chip may be programmed with the identifiers. In another embodiment, the identification device may include a bar code or other visual indicator of a code, a magnetic carrier, a passive or active radio frequency system to transmit or receive radio frequencies, or a physical connection. The physical connection may include a plug or wire associated with memory or a processor associated with memory to transmit the codes across the physical connection.

[0035] An identification device associated with the device interacts with an identification device reader associated with the outlet 313. In the embodiment of FIG. 3, the RFID reader 315 associated with the outlet 313 communicates with the RFID identifier 317 associated with the device sensor 201 or the device 203, and reads the identifier from the RFID identifier 317. The RFID reader 315 may, in one embodiment, store the identifier in memory or other medium, and may transmit the identifier to the controller 105. In the embodiment, the RFID reader 315 is in communication with the controller 105 via, for example and without limitation, a wired or wireless connection. The RFID reader 315 may also, in another embodiment, communicate with the controller 105 via the power lines using a protocol designed for communication over power lines. In an illustrative embodiment, the RFID reader 315 may include multiple RFID readers, and the RFID readers 315 may work in concert to locate the RFID identifier 317 via, for example and without limitation, triangulation of the RFID signal from the RFID identifier 317. The controller 105 may receive the location data from the multiple RFID readers 315 and may use the location data to plot the location of one or more of the RFID identifiers 317 within a geographical location. The controller 105 may aggregate this information and present a map or other pictorial representation of the geographic area or other area on a visual display device, such as a computer monitor or a display of a handheld device such as a smartphone or other portable computer, which may indicate the location of one or more of the RFID identifiers 317.

[0036] In an embodiment, the identification device reader associated with the outlet 313 may issue a challenge to the identification device associated with the device 203. The challenge may require the identification device associated with the device 203 to reply with one or more coded sequences, which may be received by the identification device associated with the outlet 313 and may be transmitted to the controller 105. The one or more coded sequences may be encrypted, or may be transmitted in an unencrypted way. The controller 105 and/or the identification device associated with the outlet 313 may receive the one or more coded sequences and may interpret the one or more coded sequences and authenticate the device. If the device 203 is not authenticated, the controller 105 may not provide electricity to the device 203 and/or may send an alert to operators of the controller 105 or other personnel associated with the controller 105. The controller 105 may also write information regarding the attempted access to an access log. If the device 203 is authenticated, the controller 105 may provide electricity to the device according to its requirements and the priority of the device, if a priority is assigned. The controller 105 may also write information regarding the access and authentication to an access log.

[0037] The sensors, denoted as 109a to 109n in FIG. 1 and also described with reference to FIG. 4, may be in communication with the storage devices and/or the power sources. The sensors 109a-109n may measure or record information related to the operation or maintenance of the storage devices and/or power sources. In another embodiment, the sensors 109a-109n may receive data from additional sources. For example, and without limitation, the sensors 109a-109n may be deployed to measure environmental conditions or the environment. The environment or environmental conditions may include, but are not limited to weather characteristics, such as air temperature, wind speed, humidity, barometric pressure,

air quality, the presence or absence of particulates, chemicals, or other airborne contaminants, the composition of the air, or future forecasts. The sensors **109a-109n** may also be deployed to receive other environmental conditions such as mobile or tactical information, including the position, movement, or number of personnel and/or equipment, the position of geological features and/or terrain characteristics, or the position, movement, and number of airborne forces. The sensors **109a-109n** may also receive data regarding current load, predicted load, or scheduled future load. The sensors **109a-109n** may also include sensors to receive data from additional sources in other areas, for example data from one or more command and control facilities, satellites, or manned or unmanned aircraft.

[0038] In an embodiment, the sensors **109a-109n** may receive data, such as command and control data, from command and control facilities. The command and control data may include troop movements and historical, current, and future operational orders. The data may include, for example and without limitation, the number of additional personnel that may draw power from the controller. The data may also include the type of personnel. For example, the data may include that a number of engineers, or a number of doctors or support staff, may draw power from the controller during a time period. The command and control facilities may transmit historical data to the controller regarding the historical trends of the energy usage of the personnel or groups of personnel. The data may also include the equipment that individual personnel or groups of personnel own or are expected to bring to be associated with the controller. For example, a group of equipment may be associated with a group of personnel. The command and control facilities may transmit historical data regarding the equipment associated with the personnel or group of personnel, either individually or as it is associated with the personnel. The data may also include priority information. For example, specific personnel or groups of personnel may be assigned a higher priority than other personnel. The controller may receive the data regarding the personnel and the equipment, and may recommend actions to prepare for the arrival of the personnel. For example, the controller may recommend adding or removing power sources or storage devices based on the information received from the sensors. The command and control facility may store the information to be transmitted to the controller in, for example and without limitation, a database or other electronic file, or a combination of databases and/or other electronic files. The controller may also transmit information to the command and control facility regarding current or historical patterns or usage information for the controller and/or any devices associated with the controller, including data regarding end users or devices.

[0039] The sensors **109a-109n** may be deployed at or near the site of the power sources, the storage devices, the end users, the controller **105**, and/or the power conditioner **107**. The sensors **109a-109n** may transmit the information to the power conditioner **107** and/or the controller **105** via a wireless connection between the sensor and the controller **105** or power conditioner **107**, or via a wired connection. The sensors **109a-109n** may transmit the information or receive information via an encrypted link or an unencrypted link over the wireless or wired connection.

[0040] The power conditioner **107**, the controller **105**, the power sources **101a-101n**, the storage devices **103a-103n**, the sensors **109a-109n**, and the end users **111a-111n** may all be

deployed at the same site, or may be deployed at different locations, and electricity and/or data may be communicated from one location to another location by the use of one or more wires. Electricity and/or data may also be communicated from one location to another location via a wireless connection.

[0041] Turning now to FIG. 5, a diagrammatic view of controller **105** components receiving and analyzing data according to an illustrative embodiment of the present disclosure is shown. The adapter **401**, the data aggregator **403**, the analytics and control logic **405**, the user interface **407**, and the communication and control module **409** are all modules that may operate within the controller **105**. In one embodiment, the adapter **401**, the data aggregator **403**, the analytics and control logic **405**, the user interface **407**, and the communication and control module **409** operate as software executed by one or more processors associated with the controller **105**, or as one or more machine implemented processing sequences. The adapter **401**, the data aggregator **403**, the analytics and control logic **405**, the user interface **407**, and the communication and control module **409** may be embodied in software, hardware, or a combination of software and hardware. The software may reside in memory that may be addressable by the one or more processors associated with the controller **105**.

[0042] The adapter **401** may receive information from one or more sensors **411**, one or more additional data streams **413**, for example data streams from other controllers, or one or more corpus of information **415**. The adapter **401** may receive the data over one or more wired or wireless networks, or over one or more dedicated wired links. The adapter **401** may be able to receive and format the data into a consistent form. For example, one or more sensors and one or more future smart devices may be in communication with the adapter **401**, and each of the devices may transmit data to the adapter **401** in a different way. The adapter **401** may receive the data inputs from the devices, recognize the protocol or protocols associated with the data inputs, decrypt the data inputs if necessary, and reformat the data inputs into one or more forms for transmission. The adapter **401** may transmit the data inputs to the data aggregator **403**. In one embodiment, one or more adapters **401** is provided, with an adapter **401** for each type of data input that is received by the controller **105**. In another embodiment, one adapter **401** is used with protocols for each type of data input that is received by the controller **105**. The adapter **401** may be able to add to or delete from the protocols that the adapter **401** supports. The additional protocols may be stored as software or hardware associated with the adapter **401**.

[0043] The data aggregator **403** may receive the formatted data inputs from the adapter **401**. The data aggregator **403** may group the data inputs so that further analysis may be possible. For example, the data aggregator **403** may group the data inputs by device, power source, and/or storage device. The data aggregator **403** may reduce the number of data points to create a smaller data set. For example, if a sensor provided data at a rate of five times per second, the data aggregator **403** may take an average of the values to create a per second average, which may then be transmitted to the analytics engine. The data aggregator **403** may also delete data received from the adapter **401** that the analytics engine and control logic **405** does not consider, or that was removed by a user or other administrator. The data aggregated by the data aggregator **403** may be transmitted to the analytics and

control logic module **405**. The data aggregator **403** may also provide the data to a user interface **407**.

[0044] The analytics engine and control logic module **405** may receive the data from the data aggregator **403**, and may perform calculations on the data to find a mixture of power sources and storage devices to generate the electricity required by the end users. The analytics engine **405** may perform the calculations according to values provided by a user or provided by the components themselves. For example, and without limitation, one or more of the end users may be designated by a user as high-priority, or may self-designate to the controller **105** as high-priority. Similarly, end users may designate or be designated as mid-priority or low-priority. Electricity may be provided to the end users depending on priority or other settings provided by a user. Similarly, sensor data may be used to determine which power sources or storage devices may be used to provide electricity to the end users.

[0045] The analytics engine and control logic module **405** may include first, second, and third plurality of processing sequences. The first plurality of processing sequences may include one or more processing sequences adapted to perform interface activities with, for example, a plurality of potential disruption event databases. The second plurality of processing sequences may be adapted to perform business analytics processing based on a plurality of business analytics data. The third plurality of processing sequences may be adapted to produce a plurality of outputs comprising first, second, and third outputs. The potential disruption event databases may include, but are not limited to, data from sensors, data from command and control facilities, data for weather including tsunami reporting, and other real time event reporting databases including national security, civil defense, weather, and intelligence threat databases. The plurality of business analytics data may include, but is not limited to network component data, network data, node power requirements, node chain power consumption data, equipment or function priority data, location data, power grid data, supported entity/mission data, predicted power disruption impact data, power disruption cost data, threat to life indicator, threat to property indicator, threat to critical infrastructure indicator, threat to critical subsystem indicator, lost opportunity cost from disruption data, predicted time of disruption data.

[0046] The first output may include a network disruption prediction report comprising a list of network nodes, missions, locations or other elements which are presently at risk or are predicted to be at risk at a predetermined time based at least in part on outputs from the first, second, and third processing sequences, the plurality of business analytics data, the data from the potential disruption event database, and data provided by the at least one device sensor. The predetermined time may include, for example and without limitation, 72 hours. In other embodiments, the predetermined time may be greater or less than 72 hours. The second output may include, but is not limited to, a list and at least one network diagram showing a plurality of proposed network disruption prevention actions determined based on: outputs from the first, second, and third processing sequences, the plurality of business analytics data, the data from the potential disruption event database, and data provided by the at least one device sensor. The third output may include, but is not limited to, a critical path listing showing critical elements, nodes, or links from

the first output with a proposed corrective action, including corrective actions which are automatically implemented by the electrical system.

[0047] For example, and without limitation, sensors may indicate that the weather is cloudy, or that the sun is setting. The controller **105** may recognize that a photovoltaic power source is providing electricity, and may start additional non-photovoltaic power sources, if available, or may begin to discharge one or more battery storage devices. In another example, sensors may indicate that power from a local, regional, national, or international power grid is fluctuating out of acceptable parameters, which may be set by a user. The analytics engine **405** may start additional generators to compensate for the loss of electricity from the power grid. In yet another example, the analytics engine **405** may recognize that a certain time period includes an increased cost per watt figure from the power grid. The analytics engine **405** may begin to discharge one or more storage devices, or may rely on other power sources, so that the controller **105** may reduce the electricity coming from the power grid, if the cost to discharge the storage devices or the alternate power sources is lower than the increased cost of electricity from the power grid.

[0048] The user interface **407** may be one or more devices to accept input and to generate output. The user interface **407** may take the form of, for example and without limitation, a graphical user interface **407** or a command line interface. The interface may allow a user to set parameters in the analytics engine **405**, the data aggregator **403**, or the communications and control module **409**. In one embodiment, the user interface **407** is provided via a graphical user interface **407** on a computer. The computer may be in communication with the controller **105** via a wired or wireless network, or the computer may be in communication with the controller **105** via a dedicated wired or wireless link. In another embodiment, the user interface **407** may be a graphical user interface **407** provided on a portable computer, such as a smart phone or other personal data assistant. The smart phone or assistant may be powered by one or more batteries, and may be in communication with the controller **105** via a wireless network or dedicated wireless link.

[0049] The communication and control module **409** may communicate with the analytics engine **405**, and may provide commands provided by the analytics engine **405** to one or more sensors, or one or more end users, storage devices, or power sources. The communication and control module **409** may be in communication with the one or more sensors **109a**, or one or more end users **111a**, storage devices **103a**, or power sources **101a** via a wired or wireless network, or via a wired or wireless dedicated link.

[0050] Turning now to FIG. 6, an exemplary diagram of a group of areas and a group of devices, each having a priority, is shown according to an illustrative embodiment of the present disclosure. In the example, a controller **105** is associated with four areas. Area A **700**, with a priority of 1, has three associated devices, Device **1 703** with a priority of 4, Device **2 705** with a priority of 4, and Device **3 707** with a priority of 1. Area B **702**, with a priority of 5, has three associated devices, Device **1 709** with a priority of 3, Device **2 711** with a priority of 3, and Device **3 713** with a priority of 1. Area C **704**, with a priority of 2, has three associated devices, Device **1 715** with a priority of 4, Device **2 717** with a priority of 1, and Device **3 719** with a priority of 5. Area D **706**, with a priority of 1, has three associated devices, Device

1 721 with a priority of 5, **Device 2 723** with a priority of 5, and **Device 3 725** with a priority of 4. In the example, priority numbers may range from 1 to 5, with 1 being the highest priority and with 5 being the lowest priority. In the example, the controller **105** provides power with preference to the highest priority devices. If there is not enough power to provide adequate power to each of the devices associated with the controller **105**, then the controller may restrict power to one or more devices, and may restrict power based on priority. The controller **105** may restrict power based on the Area priority, the device priority, or a combination of Area and device priority. For example, **Device 1 725** of **Area D 706** has a priority of 5. If the controller **105** restricts power based on device priority, then **Device 3 713** of **Area B 702** may receive power preferentially over **Device 1 725**, as **Device 3 713** has a higher priority, even though **Area B 702** has a lower priority than **Area D 706**. If the controller **105** restricts power based on Area priority, then **Device 1 725** of **Area D 706** may receive power preferentially over **Device 3 713** of **B 702**, as **Area B 702** has a lower priority than **Area D 706**. If the controller **105** provides power with preference to a combination of device and area priority, then the controller may sum or average the device and area priority to achieve an aggregated priority number, and may allocate power based on the aggregated priority number.

[0051] In an embodiment, priority may also be determined by a user. For example, and without limitation, a user with a high priority may authenticate himself or herself to a device **203**. The user may have a priority depending on their status in an organization, for example rank, or may be assigned a priority based in part on their assigned tasks or responsibilities. The authentication may include, but is not limited to, the insertion of a control card, a password, a biometric identifier, or other identifier to uniquely identify one or more users. The authentication may include an encrypted certificate, which is transmitted to a controller **105** and compared against a central database of certificates. The controller **105** may take the user's priority into account when calculating the priority of a plurality of devices in the system.

[0052] If a controller **105** cannot deploy adequate power to all of the devices on a system, as during, for example, a failure of one or more power generators or an excess number of devices **203** associated with the controller **105**, the controller **105** may attempt an orderly shutdown of one or more devices **203**. For example, and without limitation, the controller **105** may transmit a message to a computer system notifying users that the particular computer system will shutdown in a minute, or another length of time specified by the controller **105** or by the computer system. The computer system may take measures to shutdown in an orderly manner, such as saving settings or files to non-volatile memory or transferring functions or files to another computer system that may not be affected by the shutdown. The affected computer system may notify the user of available computer systems that are not affected by the shutdown, so that the user may transfer functions or files to another computer system. In an embodiment, the user may override the shutdown of a particular system. The override may include that the user present credentials that allow the user to override the shutdown. For example, and without limitation, the user may require the computer system for a mission-critical application. The user may provide credentials to override the shutdown. The information may be transmitted to the controller **105**, and the controller **105** may authenticate the user's credentials and apply the override if

the credentials are accepted. In an embodiment, the controller **105** may also restart one or more devices **203** that have been shut down, if adequate power supplies are enabled or restored.

[0053] In an embodiment, the controller **105** may optimize the priorities of one or more devices **203** so that, if necessary, an orderly shutdown of devices may allow the controller **105** to maintain electricity to critical devices. For example, a device **203** with a high priority, when associated with a first controller, may not have the same priority when associated with a second controller. The second controller may reassign the priority of the device **203** based on the priorities of the other devices associated with the second controller and with the overall mission and responsibilities of the second controller. If one or more controllers are in communication with each other, then optimization may occur over a local level at the individual controllers, at a regional level with one or more controllers, and/or at a global level with all associated controllers. The controllers may exchange priority information with each other, or may communicate priority information to a regional or global system or systems that may receive the information, determine priorities on a regional or global basis, and communicate new priority information to the controllers.

[0054] The communication of the devices to the controller **105** may also allow the controller to construct a map showing the location of each of the devices **203**. For example, the controller **105** may have the ability to determine the location of one or more of the electrical outlets **313**, and the electrical outlets may communicate if a device **203** or device sensor **201** is attached to the electrical outlet **313**. The controller **105** may aggregate this information and present a map or other pictorial representation of the geographic area on a visual display device, such as a computer monitor or a display of a handheld device such as a smartphone or other portable computer, and may present the devices that are attached to the controller **105** on the map. The display may form a portion of a graphical user interface such that a user or operator may be able to navigate the map and select operating parameters for each of the devices associated with the controller **105**.

[0055] Turning now to FIG. 7, a flow chart depicting data acquisition and analysis according to an illustrative embodiment of the present disclosure is shown. In box **501**, the controller **105** may receive power data. As shown above, the controller **105** may receive power data from the sensors and/or the legacy or future smart devices through the adapter or adapters.

[0056] In box **503**, the data is aggregated by the data aggregator and key signatures are extracted. The key signatures may include, for example and without limitation, voltage and amperage information, power type, quality requirements, or other requirements, and time. The key signatures may indicate, for a given end user and a given time, the aggregated power requirement data indicating periods of use or non-use. For example, a signature may indicate that an end user device may be active at 90% between the hours of 3 AM and 9 AM, may be active at 45% between the hours of 9 AM and 3 PM on weekdays, and may be inactive between 3 PM and 3 AM on the weekdays and all day on the weekends. Signatures may be created for each end user, and the signatures may be aggregated across each of the end users, so that power requirements may be calculated, for example, per day.

[0057] In box **505**, the signatures extracted in box **503** are analyzed and the controller **105** attempts to learn the signa-

tures. For example, the controller 105 may analyze the data from box 503, and may determine that additional power sources must be brought online to meet the demand of the end user device operating at 95%, or that one or more storage devices must be discharged to meet the demand of the end user device operating at 95%.

[0058] In box 507, the controller 105 attempts to predict future power requirements, and may adjust the power sources, storage devices, end users, and/or sensors in an attempt to anticipate the future power requirements. For example, given the example shown with regards to box 505, the controller 105 may bring additional power sources on line or may discharge one or more storage device while the end user device is 90% active, may reduce the output of the power sources, or may reduce or stop the discharge of the storage devices.

[0059] While this disclosure has been described as pertaining to the distribution of electricity to one or more devices, the system may distribute any resource in limited supply, and other applications may also be apparent. For example, and without limitation, the controller 105 may operate to control the distribution of bandwidth for a network, so that devices that are associated with the controller 105 may have a priority, and the controller 105 may allocate available bandwidth for a network based on a device's priority. In an embodiment, the controller 105 may operate to control the distribution of solids, liquids, or gasses to one or more devices and/or users associated with the controller 105.

[0060] While this disclosure has been described as having an exemplary design, the present disclosure may be further modified within the spirit and scope of this disclosure. This application is therefore intended to cover any variations, uses, or adaptations of the invention using its general principles. Further, this application is intended to cover such departures from the present disclosure as come within known or customary practice in the art to which this disclosure pertains.

1. An electrical system, comprising:
 - a controller including a plurality of machine implemented processing sequences;
 - a plurality of sensors configured to receive input related to the environmental conditions of the environment surrounding the plurality of sensors and transmit the input to the controller;
 - at least one power source in electrical communication with the controller;
 - at least one storage device in electrical communication with the controller; and
 - at least one device sensor in communication with an end user, the at least one device sensor including memory, the memory including priority information regarding the priority of a device associated with the at least one device sensor, the at least one device sensor operable to transmit information to the controller, wherein the controller selectively energizes or deenergizes the devices associated with the at least one device sensor based at least in part on the priority information associated with each of the at least one device sensors and on the available energy produced by the at least one power source.
2. The electrical system of claim 1, further comprising at least one smart device, the at least one smart device operable to transmit information to the controller without the use of the at least one device sensor.
3. The electrical system of claim 1, wherein the controller utilizes an analytics engine to make power planning deci-

sions, the analytics engine comprising first, second, and third plurality of processing sequences, wherein the first plurality of processing sequences is adapted to perform interface activities with a plurality of potential disruption event databases, the second plurality of processing sequences is adapted to perform business analytics processing based on a plurality of business analytics data, and the third plurality of processing sequences is adapted to produce a plurality of outputs comprising first, second, and third outputs;

wherein the potential disruption event databases comprise data from sensors, command and control facilities, weather sources including tsunami reporting, and other real time event reporting databases including national security, civil defense, weather, and intelligence threat databases;

wherein the plurality of business analytics data comprising network component data, network data, node power requirements, node chain power consumption data, equipment or function priority data, location data, power grid data, supported entity/mission data, predicted power disruption impact data, power disruption cost data, threat to life indicator, threat to property indicator, threat to critical infrastructure indicator, threat to critical subsystem indicator, lost opportunity cost from disruption data, predicted time of disruption data;

wherein the first output comprises a network disruption prediction report comprising a list of network nodes, missions, locations or other elements which are presently at risk or are predicted to be at risk within 72 hours or less based on:

outputs from the first, second, and third processing sequences,

the plurality of business analytics data, the data from the potential disruption event database, and data provided by the at least one device sensor;

wherein the second output comprises a list and at least one network diagram showing a plurality of proposed network disruption prevention actions determined based on:

outputs from the first, second, and third processing sequences,

the plurality of business analytics data, the data from the potential disruption event database, and data provided by the at least one device sensor; and

wherein the third output comprises a critical path listing showing critical elements, nodes, or links from the first output with a proposed corrective action, including corrective actions which are automatically implemented by the electrical system.

4. The electrical system of claim 3, further comprising at least one portable computer in communication with the controller to issue commands to the controller, the at least one portable computer including an input/output portion adapted to display a graphical interface showing the first, second, and third outputs.

5. The electrical system of claim 1, wherein the at least one power source is at least one of a photovoltaic generator, a solar cell power generator, a concentrated solar power generator, a fossil fuel generator, a wind turbine generator, a pyrolysis power generator, a fuel cell power generator, a geothermal power generator, a hydroelectric power generator, a nuclear power plant, a wave powered power generator, or a connection to a local, national, or international electrical grid.

6. The electrical system of claim 1, wherein the at least one storage device is at least one of dry cell batteries, wet cell batteries, rechargeable batteries, capacitors, fly-wheel energy storage systems, hydraulic energy storage systems, steam based systems, pressure based systems, the creation of bio-fuels, or the storage or heating of heated liquids or solids.

7. The electrical system of claim 6, wherein the rechargeable batteries comprises at least one lithium-ion, lithium, nickel-metal hydride, nickel cadmium, or lead-acid rechargeable batteries.

8. The electrical system of claim 1, further comprising a power conditioner in electrical communication with the controller.

9. The electrical system of claim 1, wherein the controller is operable to choose one or more of the one or more power sources to generate electricity based at least in part on the input received from the plurality of sensors.

10. The electrical system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of sensors include at least one sensor to measure tactical information.

11. The electrical system of claim 1, wherein the priority information is transmitted to the controller over a power line.

12. The electrical system of claim 1, wherein the priority information is stored in one or more RFID devices associated with each of the at least one device sensors.

13. The electrical system of claim 1, wherein the location of the RFID devices is tracked by a plurality of RFID sensors.

14. The electrical system of claim 1, wherein the device sensor further transmits one or more codes to the controller, and wherein the controller interprets the one or more codes and energizes the device sensor based on the acceptance of one or more of the one or more codes.

15. The electrical system of claim 1, wherein the priority information associated with each of the at least one device sensors is changed based on the priority of the user operating the device sensor.

16. An electrical system controller including a plurality of machine implemented processing sequences, comprising:

- an adapter to receive data from one or more inputs, including a plurality of sensors operable to receive input related to the environment;
- a data aggregator to receive data from the adapter and group the data;
- an analytics engine to receive the grouped data from the data aggregator and analyze the data; and
- a control module to receive commands from the analytics engine and relay the commands to one or more devices at least one device sensor in communication with an end user, the at least one device sensor including memory, the memory including priority information regarding the priority of a device associated with the at least one device sensor, the at least one device sensor operable to transmit information to the adapter, wherein the control module selectively energizes or deenergizes the devices

associated with the at least one device sensor based at least in part on the priority information associated with each of the at least one device sensors and on the available energy produced by at least one power source.

17. The electrical system controller of claim 16, further comprising at least one smart device, the at least one smart device operable to transmit information to the controller without the use of the at least one device sensor.

18. The electrical system controller of claim 16, wherein the plurality of sensors include at least one sensor to measure environmental conditions.

19. The electrical system controller of claim 16, wherein the plurality of sensors include at least one sensor to measure tactical information.

20. The electrical system controller of claim 16, wherein the analytics engine is operable to choose one or more of the one or more power sources to generate electricity based at least in part on the input received from the plurality of sensors.

21. The electrical system controller of claim 16, further comprising at least one portable computer in communication with the electrical system controller to issue commands to the electrical system controller.

22. The electrical system controller of claim 16, wherein the priority information is transmitted to the adapter over a power line.

23. The electrical system controller of claim 16, wherein the priority information is stored in RFID devices associated with each of the at least one device sensors.

24. A method of predicting electrical requirements, comprising:

- receiving data from one or more inputs, including at least one sensor operable to receive input related to the environment and at least one device sensor operable to receive data from one or more end users regarding power usage and future requirements, the at least one device sensor including memory, the memory including priority information regarding the priority of a device associated with the at least one device sensor, the at least one device sensor operable to transmit information;
- extracting key signatures from the data received from the one or more inputs;
- learning the key signatures extracted from the data received from the one or more inputs;
- predicting future power requirements associated with the key signatures; and
- controlling power generation, storage, and distribution according to the predicted future power requirements by selectively energizing or deenergizing the devices associated with the at least one device sensor based at least in part on the priority information associated with each of the at least one device sensors and on the available energy produced by at least one power source.

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