



Sixth annual Power and Energy Industry Conference attracts over 200 participants

As the Pittsburgh region continues to transform into one of the nation's centers for energy production and delivery, the Power and Energy Initiative at the Swanson School of Engineering continues to lead the way in exploring the industry's potential. That future was evident at the sixth annual Power and Energy Industry Conference, held on November 15 and 16 at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association in Oakland.

With the theme of "Powering the Future of Advanced Energy Delivery and Reliability," approximately 220 students, faculty and regional partners participated in two days of keynote lecturers, panel sessions, poster presentations and networking sessions. Conference Chair Gregory Reed, Ph.D., director of the Electric Power & Energy Initiative; assoc. director of the Center for Energy; and professor of electric power engineering, Dept. of Electrical & Computer Engineering at the Swanson School, summed up the powerhouse schedule as a success.

"The Power and Energy Industry Conference here at Pitt has grown from a lecture to a successful interactive conference that continues to impact the evolution of the energy industry in our region, by bringing together academia, industry partners, and government constituents in a collaborative environment" Dr. Reed says. "Since our region is one of only three that represents seven different energy-related industries – coal, natural gas, nuclear, solar, wind, electrical transmission & distribution, and green buildings – I believe this conference will only grow in scope and mission.

I especially want to thank our sponsors, who made the event possible, as well as the many Pitt graduate and undergraduate students alike, who presented some of their research work and related activities to our region's energy innovators."

This year's sponsors included:

Gold Level

ABB

Ansys

Eaton

Mitsubishi Electric Power

Products

Siemens

Silver Level

Starline DC Solutions

Universal Electric

Corporation

Bronze Level

Curtiss Wright Flow

Control

HICO

Life Cycle Engineering

KEMA

MelTran Inc.

Paul C. Rizzo Associates

Inc.

Rand Corporation



The conference agenda included:

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 15th

9:00 a.m. Registration and Networking

10:00 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks: Gerald Holder, Ph.D., US Steel Dean, Swanson School of Engineering, University of Pittsburgh

10:10 a.m. Keynote Address: Jerry Whitaker – Eaton Corporation, (retired) President, Electrical Sector Americas

11:00 a.m. Panel Session: Technology Development and Acceleration for Industry Collaborations

Moderator: Dr. Mark Redfern – Assoc. Dean of Research, Swanson School of Engineering

The panel will discuss various aspects of technology development and technology acceleration processes related to industry collaborations with universities and government labs.

Panelists:

Petra Mitchell – President, Catalyst Connection

Julianne Klara – Regional University Alliance Manager, DOE Nat'l Energy Technology Lab

Colton Weber – Program. Director, PA Dept. of Community & Economic Development

Dr. Marlin Mickle – Director, RFID Center of Excellence, University of Pittsburgh

12:30 p.m. Luncheon – Schenley Lounge / Pennsylvania Room

1:30 p.m. Technical Program: The POWER of ELECTRONICS for Advanced Energy Delivery: Applications for Renewable Energy Integration, Energy Storage, and Smart Grids

The technical program will feature invited presentations on advanced power electronics research, developments, and emerging applications from several of the world's leading electric power technology suppliers and electric utility users.

Invited Industry Presentations:

Eric John – ABB Inc., Grid Systems U.S.

Joe Waligorski – FirstEnergy Corp., FE Technologies

Dan Sullivan – Mitsubishi Electric Products Inc., Power Systems Division

Todd Rosenberger – Oncor Electric Delivery, Transmission Engineering

Dr. Rajat Majumder – Siemens Energy Inc., High Voltage Systems

4:00 p.m. Graduate Student Research Symposium and Poster Session

Pitt EPERGI Team. (Electric Power & Energy Research for Grid Infrastructure)

Ten graduate students will highlight recent research work on the following titles:



- Medium Voltage DC Architecture: A Platform for Renewable Energy Integration and End-Use Network Supply
- Grid Level Energy Storage and Control: A Cornerstone of Future Power Networks and Smart Grid Development
- Wide Bandgap Semiconductor Application Assessments for Future Power Electronic Conversion Systems

Student-Industry Networking Event

6:00 p.m. Evening Session Guest Speaker – Pennsylvania Room

Bill Flanagan – Executive Vice President of Corporate Relations, The Allegheny Conference

~ 7:00 p.m. – Networking Reception and Industry Exhibits – Main Ballroom

An evening social event bringing together Pitt students studying in the electric power & energy fields with participating industry organizations, as well as business-to-business contacts among industry participants. The evening session provides networking and information exchange opportunities focused in the electric power & energy sector.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 16

Workshop Series

9:15 a.m. Workshop Sessions A

A-1) DOE-414 National Offshore Wind Energy Grid Interconnection Project

Session Moderator: John Daniel – ABB, Inc.

A-2) DOE-152 Workforce Training – Keystone Smart Grid Fellows Program.

Session Moderator: Pitt EPERGI Graduate Students

10:45 a.m. Workshop Sessions B

B-1) DC (Direct Current) Infrastructure Development

Session Moderator: Tim Martinson – Universal Electric Corp., Starline DC Solutions

B-2) Cyber Security Initiative – Electric Power Grid and Energy Control Systems

Session Moderator: William Slattery – FBI, Cyber Initiative and Resource Fusion Unit

1:00 p.m. Adjourn