

Innovative Smart Grid Technologies (ISGT)

19-21 January Gaithersburg, MD

The ISGT conference focused on smart grid and contained a program of peer reviewed papers. This rigor to the program meant that the program contained a large number of useful data points for both the research community and the practitioners in the audience. It was clear in a number of the panel sessions that the give and take from the audience had an impact on the policy makers at the podium. The chance to interact with FERC, NIST, and DOE provided IEEE PES members a real chance to have their views heard and get answers to questions that they might not have been able to get answered anywhere else.

The Smart Metering Lessons Learned Tutorial had over 100 attendees who spent the afternoon touring the world and listening to real world lessons from other projects. The interaction between the presenter and the audience allowed project managers from utilities and vendors a chance to interchange ideas and issues in an open and safe forum in addition to the materials provided by the presenter. This is the second time that IEEE PES has run this tutorial (the first being at the Chicago T&D Show). Based on attendance and requests from others, there is a good chance that IEEE PES will run it again at another conference in the future.

The Security Panel offered for the first time the key leaders of all the major Cyber-Security projects that are underway for the smart grid on a single stage. The members of the Panel – Hank ... From DOE, Annabelle Lee from NIST, Bobby Brown of EnerNex, and Carl Gunther from the University of Illinois provided a view for the attendees on what has gone before for each of their projects, how the projects are organized, how additional people can get involved, and what they will do in the future with their projects. In addition they each provided their view on what a project manager should pay attention to with regards to Cyber-Security. During the questions Annabelle indicated that in the next phase of the NIST project that additional working groups would be created to work on additional issues, like Physical-Cyber security.

It should be reported how quickly the capacity of the facilities was filled after the conference was only announced 2 months ahead of time. Potential attendees were literally turned away at the door. Given the success of this conference, it will be repeated next year at a facility that can accommodate more folks. Attendees were from 32 countries, which makes it clear that this topic is of high interest throughout the world. As a result, plans are also underway for a Smart Grid Conference in Europe in the Fall of 2010.



Sessions were very well attended



President Al Rotz greeting attendees

