

# **The Next Generation Grid**

## **The 2009 IEEE PES Power Systems Conference and Exposition (PSCE)**

**Seattle, Washington, USA, March 15-18, 2009**

*Summary prepared by John Paserba, IEEE PES VP-Meetings*

The third edition of the IEEE Power & Energy Society's (PES) Power Systems Conference and Exposition (PSCE) was co-hosted by five utilities: Seattle City Light; Tacoma Power; Bonneville Power Administration; Puget Sound Energy; and Snohomish County PUD. PSCE 2009 was held at the Washington State Convention Center and Sheraton Seattle Hotel, Seattle, WA, USA from March 15-18, 2009.

The biennial PSCE is designed to bring together practicing power systems engineers, operators, planners, policy makers, economists, academics, and others interested in power systems from around the world to address topics under the 2009 event theme "Next Generation Grid." This conference and exposition provided a venue to share and discuss various issues and developments in the multifaceted field of electrical power *systems*. The conference had an outstanding technical program with a combination of a plenary session, a poster session, panel sessions, paper sessions, technical committee meetings, and tutorials, as well as an extensive student program, and an exposition of major industry players in the area of power systems and the next generation grid.

The conference theme "Next Generation Grid" was selected over 2 years ago, and proved to be timely given the recent attention to Smart Grid by the new administration of the USA government and the accompanying stimulus package programs and funding presently being rolled out.

### **The Exposition - A Highlight of the Event**

The exposition showcased state-of-the-art software and hardware systems, as well as consulting services for those involved in the power systems area. There were times devoted exclusively to the exhibits--with no parallel technical sessions scheduled--so attendees could focus on the displays and have a chance to speak directly with vendors on the latest technologies, systems, software, hardware, and services, as well as giving exhibitors the opportunity to interact with many potential customers. With nearly 80 companies, PSCE'09 had over double the number of exhibitors participating in this year's event compared to past events.

### **The Plenary Session – Three Views on the Next Generation Grid**

The Honorable Greg Nickels, Mayor of the City of Seattle, welcomed attendees at the opening of the Plenary Session, while sharing Seattle's commitment to the energy debate and actions toward green and renewable resources. Then, in keeping with PSCE tradition, the Plenary Session featured speakers with unique perspectives on the electric utility industry (*who can forget at PSCE'04 the National Public Radio Technical and Science Correspondent, David Kestenbaum, telling his experience of covering the 2003 Northeast North American blackout as a reporter!!*). For PSCE'09, Hardev Juj, PSCE 2009 Executive Chair and Plenary Moderator facilitated three talks sharing different perspectives on the Next Generation Grid. Mr. Randy Berry of Areva T&D described industry initiatives to develop a smarter and more efficient grid. Mr. Mark Zeller of Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc., presented some of the industry's smart grid success stories while also highlighting smart grid philosophy and vision. Finally, Dr. Anjan Bose, Washington State University, provided a preview of the future of the Next Generation Grid and discussed technologies that are around the corner, as well as barriers to such implementation that need to be overcome.

## **PSCE'09 - Some Numbers**

PSCE'09 achieved some very impressive numbers in various categories:

- Nearly 350 panel and proceedings papers were presented
- The technical program consisted of 52 sessions for panel or proceeding paper presentations, plus a poster session, 4 tutorials, and 3 short courses on power system basics
- There were nearly 80 exhibitors, double that of the previous PSCE
- The total attendance was over 1300 delegates, a 50% increase over the previous PSCE, in the following categories:
  - 835 registrant badges were issued in the main categories (full conference, one-day, companions, students, life members, exhibits hall only)
  - 255 Exhibitor badges were issued on site for the nearly 80 exhibitor booths
  - The local organizing committee and on-site volunteers totaled 120 badges issued
  - The educational track had 35 participants
  - The Wednesday open house for the host utilities and PSCE'09 supporters had 65 participants

## **Key Organizational Leaders**

There were many contributors involved in the leadership of PSCE'09. Space does not allow each individual who had a key part in putting together this event to be named, as there were many. Here, I will simply make note of the Executive Chair, Hardev Juj and General Chair, Max Emrick for their excellent leadership with the Local Organizing Committee (LOC), as well as all of the Seattle LOC members and on-site volunteers, whose efforts and positive impact at the meeting were noticed and appreciated by all PSCE'09 attendees. And of course, large credit and a big thank you are due to the authors, panelists, committee chairs, exhibitors, and attendees - for making PSCE'09 the success that it was.

## **The Seattle PES Chapter Perspective**

From the perspective of the Seattle PES Chapter, the lead for the Local Organizing Committee (LOC), PSCE 2009 was 3 years in the planning and organizing stage and proved to be a learning and rewarding experience for all members. PSCE 2009 brought together 5 area utilities, a university, a consulting group, and an equipment supplier, as the primary sources of members of the LOC. This IEEE PES event showed that IEEE and the Power & Energy Society is valued and important to employers and to individual members for professional development. The PSCE 2009 LOC found that many people were willing to volunteer at the event, with 120 volunteers on site for part or all of PSCE 2009. The LOC leaders noted that they could have had 200 volunteers if additional help was needed. The take-away of the Seattle PES Chapter leaders and members was that with the experience and help provided from IEEE PES (the volunteers of the Meetings Department and the staff of the Executive Office), any PES Chapter should embrace such an opportunity to be part of the planning and execution of a PES meeting event for the betterment of the Power & Energy Society, the local Chapter, the local companies, and individual members.

*Mark you calendars for PSCE'11. Details to be announced at [www.pscexpo.com](http://www.pscexpo.com) soon!!!*



**1: Seattle LOC members enjoy the welcome reception**



**4. Seattle Mayor Nickels welcomes PSCE'09 attendees**



**2: The welcome reception.  
A time to meet and great (and eat!)**



**5: Chinese Lion Dancers lead the way to the exhibit hall opening ceremony**



**3: The Next Generation?**



**6: PES President, Wanda Reder, and PSCE'09 Exec. Chair, Hardev Juj, open the exhibit hall**



**7. A busy PSCE'09 exhibit hall**



**10: Part of the PSCE'09 Local Organizing Committee**



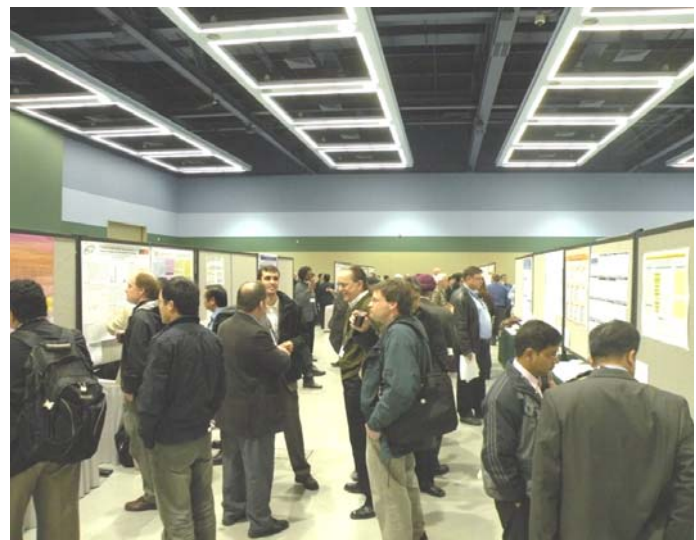
**8: The PSCE'09 exhibit hall**



**11: Registration – Open for business**



**9: The PSCE'09 poster session**



**12: Another aisle of the PSCE'09 poster session**