



Conference Program, Speakers & Topics (as of October 13, 2020)

Session #1

Plenary General Session

This session will feature technical presentations for all Congress attendees.

Chairman: Marvin Zimmerman, INMR, Canada

Session #2

Latest Developments in Insulator Design, Application & Inspection

This session will explore the latest technological developments aimed at optimizing insulator design and application as well as inspection processes and equipment to assess condition in service.

Chairman: Dr. Igor Gutman, Independent Insulation Group, Sweden

Session #3

Technology & Service Experience in Application of Surge Arresters

This session will review technologies and experience in different applications of surge arresters to protect lines and substations.

Chairman: Dr. William Chisholm, T&D Expert, Canada

Session #4

Testing & Condition Assessment of Cable Systems & Accessories

This session will discuss approaches and methodologies to test cable systems both in the laboratory and on-site as part of pre-commissioning or condition monitoring.

Chairman: Paul Leufkens, Power Projects Leufkens, United States

Session #5

Site Severity Assessment & Line/Substation Design for Polluted Service Environments

This session will explain procedures to assess pollution exposure and severity of electrical infrastructure and to specify insulation design suitable for this environment.

Chairman: Alberto Pigni, T&D Expert, Italy

Session #6

Testing & Certification Procedures to Ensure Application of Quality MV/HV Grid Components

This session will explore the most effective processes and procedures to qualify suppliers and their products prior to acquisition and application on power grids.

Chairman: Dr. Iryani Mohamed Rawi, Tenaga Nasional Berhad, Malaysia

Session #7

Optimizing Material Properties & Production Technologies for Polymeric MV/HV Components for Power Grids

This session will focus on material properties and production technologies that allow optimized manufacture of consistently high-quality polymeric grid components.

Chairman: Dr. Frank Schmuck, T&D Expert, Switzerland



Mohd Faris Ariffin

Specialist, Overhead Systems Design & Diagnostics, Asset Management Dept., Distribution Network Div., Tenaga Nasional Berhad, Malaysia

Testing & Certification Procedures for MV Premoulded Aerial Bundled Cable Straight Through Joints

Mr. Faris obtained a B.Sc. in Engineering (Electrical) from Northern Arizona University and a Masters in Electrical Engineering from UNITEN, Malaysia. He joined TNB in 1991 where he worked on transmission lines and substations, regional control centre, SCADA and distribution network services. Since 2003, he has been working as Sr. Engineer/Technical Expert in Overhead Line Systems Design & Diagnostics, including MV aerial bundled cable systems. He is a registered Professional Engineer with Practising Certificate with the Board of Engineers, a member of Institution of Engineers Malaysia and Honorary Secretary of CIRED Malaysia.



Samuel Arturo Asto Soto

Transmission Line Coordinator, Power Grid of Peru, Peru

Composite Insulator Performance in Aggressive Service Environments: Comparison vs. Coated Glass Insulators

Mr. Asto Soto is an Electrical Engineer, graduated in 2000 from the National University of the Center of Peru (UNCP 2000) with further studies in Masters of Business Administration at the University Ricardo Palma. He has detailed experience in management, planning and supervision of electrical maintenance and projects in mining, concentrating plants and high voltage electrical transmission systems. He is a member of the Working Group with Tension of the Regional Energy Integration Commission (TcT CIER). His work experience also includes high voltage maintenance in transmission lines, hot line work, corrosion protection in transmission electrical systems and insulation.



Steve Bell

Engineering Manager, K-Line Insulators, Canada

1. Tower Framing Conversions Using Polymer Insulators 2. Interphase Spacer Applications

Mr. Bell holds a Bachelor of Applied Science ME degree from the University of Toronto and works as part of the engineering and development team devoted to new composite insulator and interphase spacer designs and applications. Among his current goals is further improving insulator performance through research and product testing. He is active in IEEE/PES, including NEMA and ANSI C29 Insulator Working Groups and participates in current IEEE e-field sensitivity studies and Guide updates.



Jeff Butler

Sr. Product Manager, Hubbell Power Systems, United States

1. Understanding & Mitigating Corona on Polymer Insulators 2. Advancements in Braced Line Post Testing

Mr. Butler graduated from Georgia Tech (Georgia Institute of Technology) in Mechanical Engineering before entering the power utility industry in 2006. Since then, he has held various roles of international and U.S. domestic responsibilities in engineering, business development, sales and marketing. He is an internationally published author and presenter as well as a licensed professional engineer. In his current role, he is based in the manufacturing facility in Aiken, South Carolina.



Paolo Cardano

R&D Sr. Expert for Bushings, GE Grid Solutions, Italy

Designing & Testing Solid-Core Bushings for Pollution & Long Service Life

Dr. Cardano received his Doctoral Degree in Electrical Engineering from the Milano Polytechnic University. After graduation, he joined Passoni & Villa in various positions in the technical area. He is presently R&D senior expert at GE Grid Solution for OIP, HVDC and gas bushings and also in charge of development of UHV AC bushings. He has been president of the Italian Committee 36A - Bushings and is active in several CEI/IEC working groups. He has published numerous papers at international conferences.



A. J. (Tony) Carreira

President, K-Line Insulators, Canada

1. Polymer Insulators & Live Line Work 2. Interphase Spacer Applications

Mr. Carreira received a degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Waterloo after years working in the utility industry in distribution and transmission design, construction and maintenance. He is member of CIGRE, CSA, CEA and Sr. Member of IEEE and has chaired the IEEE TF 15.09.04.01 "Guidelines for the In-service Classification of NCI Damage" as well as ESMOL TF on IEEE Std 957 "Guide for Cleaning Insulators". He was appointed Assoc. Expert of WG 32 as well as Assoc. Member of B2-AG-06 and sits on related committees, working groups and task forces.



CHEN Xiujuan

Sr. Engineer, High Voltage Technology, China Electric Power Research Institute, China

Key Technology & Application of UHVAC Controllable Metal Oxide Arresters

Dr. CHEN obtained her PhD at the China Electric Power Research Institute and now works in this Department as Professorate Senior Engineer of High Voltage Technology. Her research interests include power system lightning mechanisms, lightning protection, metal oxide arresters as well as overvoltage and insulation coordination. In 2005, she began to study UHVAC controllable MOAs and this key technology has already been put into engineering application. She is a member of CIGRE C4/A3.53 Working Group dealing with application effects of low-residual-voltage surge arresters in suppressing overvoltage in UHVAC systems.



William Chisholm

T&D Expert, Canada

Chair, SESSION 3: Technology & Service Experience in Application of Surge Arresters

Selecting Insulators for Metallic Earth Return on HVDC Lines

Dr. Chisholm is an expert in the effects of adverse weather on overhead power lines, including lightning and grounding, icing on insulators and thermal rating. He has been an IEEE Fellow for a decade – a distinction given after his long career at Ontario Hydro and Kinectrics. He combines his consulting worldwide with teaching and writing for INMR as well as Wiley & McGraw Hill and also volunteers in the IEEE executive rotation as Chair and Past Chair of the PES T&D Committee. In 2017, he received the Claude de Turreil Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Field of Electrical Insulators.



Tim Condon

Quality Manager, Network Engineering, ESB Engineering, Ireland

Insulation Design & Inspection Experience at ESB (Irish TAO): Lessons Learned

Mr. Condon received his Bachelor and Masters Degrees in Engineering from National University of Ireland Galway in Ireland and has over 22 years of experience in high voltage equipment manufacturing and the power utility industry. His current role with ESB Engineering and Major Projects includes such areas as substation design, HV cables, overhead line design, power system studies and smart grid solutions.



Michele de Nigris

Director, Sustainable Development & Energy Sources, RSE, Italy

Monitoring, Mapping, Modelling & Mitigating Pollution: Application Experience on the Italian Transmission System

Mr. de Nigris received his Degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Genoa and now serves as Director of Sustainable Development & Energy Sources Department at RSE. He was elected Chairman, IEA Technology Collaboration Program International Smart Grids Action Network at the first Executive Committee Meeting. An expert in the study, research and testing of electrical components for more than 30 years, he has represented Italy at forums such as the European Electricity Grids Initiative. He is author of nearly 100 papers and has been coordinator of the GRID+ project.



Chris Engelbrecht

Consultant, EPRI, United States/Netherlands

Approach to Select & Dimension Polymer Insulators for Polluted Conditions

Mr. Engelbrecht has been internationally active in the field of insulation co-ordination since 1990. He convened CIGRE WG C4.303 that has completed the Guidelines for selecting HVDC insulators with respect to pollution. He has been Convener of CIGRÉ Working Group C4.23 as well as a member of IEC TC36 WG.



Mohd Fairouz Mohd Yousof

Lecturer, Faculty of Electrical & Electronic Engineering, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn, Malaysia

Application of Frequency Response Analysis to Assess Condition of Power Transformers

Dr. Fairouz obtained his B. Eng. and M. Eng. from the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia and then completed his Ph.D. at the University of Queensland in Australia. He was appointed Visiting Researcher at TNB Research from 2018 to 2019 and since as Principal Consultant at Xair Energy. His main area of research is condition-based monitoring and assessment of high voltage equipment, specifically power transformers and rotating machines. He is registered with the Board of Engineers Malaysia and Member of the Malaysian Society for Engineering and Technology.



Ryan Freeman

Product Manager, Hubbell Power Systems, United States

Latest Developments in Fire Mitigation Products

Mr. Freeman received his BSc in Mechanical Engineering from the Univ. of South Carolina. He joined Hubbell Power Systems in 2011 as a Design Engineer. Since 2016, he has been an Application Engineer responsible for the design and market of distribution and transmission line arresters. He is a member of the IEEE 693 Seismic Design for Substation WG. He is also a member of CIGRE WG C4.39.



Ricardo Wesley Salles Garcia

Researcher, Transmission Lines & Equipment Dept., Electrical Energy Research Center (CEPEL), Brazil

Using Environmental Parameters to Create Pollution Maps for Power Utilities: Experience in Brazil

Mr. Garcia received his Bachelor Degree in Electrical Engineering and MSc in High Voltage Engineering from Rio de Janeiro Federal University. Since 1985, he has worked in the Transmission Lines and Equipment Department at Brazil's Electrical Energy Research Center (CEPEL). His research activities are related to ageing and pollution tests on insulators as well as live line maintenance of overhead transmission lines. He is Chairman of the Brazilian Cigré Working Group for Insulators and also active in various international WGs.



Michel Gehrig

Engineer & Project Manager, Hübers Verfahrenstechnik Maschinenbau, Germany

Optimized Processing of High Viscosity Liquid Silicone Rubbers for Large Electrical Components

Mr. Gehrig studied material science at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich. He then worked for 9 years as Leader of the Application Laboratory for Electrical Applications at resin supplier, Ciba-Geigy. He later worked as Managing Director of an equipment supplier and mold maker. Currently, he serves as Sales Engineer and Project Manager at one of the leading suppliers of mixing and dosing equipment for thermosetting materials.



Jean-Marie George

Scientific Director, Sediver, France

- 1. Silicone Coating of Insulators: Latest Technical Knowledge Based on Field Performance & Laboratory Testing**
- 2. AC & DC Pollution Testing Methods: Accuracy & Limitations**
- 3. Simulation of Electric Field: What & What Not to Expect**

Mr. George received his Electrical Eng. Degree from the HEI School in France and joined Sediver as Research Engineer in 1986. After working as Production Manager for the Composite Insulator Division and Quality Mgr. and Technical Dir. for North America, he is now Scientific Director, with responsibilities covering R&D and technical assistance worldwide. His cross-functional positions with more than 30 years of experience have given him expertise in insulator performance as well as research and development. He has published and co-authored extensively on overhead lines, with 40 papers and articles and he is also author/co-author of patents and utility models. He is a member of CIGRE, IEEE, NEMA, ANSI and CSA as well as 2018 recipient of the Claude de Tourreil Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement in Electrical Insulators.



Florent Giraudet

Sales Director, Tridelta Meidensha, Germany

- 1. Externally Gapped Line Arresters: Reviewing 40 Years Service Experience**
- 2. Mechanical Considerations & Service Life of Non-Gapped Line Arresters**

Mr. Giraudet received a Dipl.-Ing. Degree in Industrial and Electrical Engineering from CESI in Lyon, France in 2010. He joined Siemens Grenoble where his focus was on retrofit of GIS & AIS switchgear and later Siemens, Germany as Application Engineer for surge arrester technologies. In this role, he was responsible for business development of overhead line solutions that include applications of transmission line arresters as well as polymeric insulators. In 2020 he took over Sales & Marketing responsibilities for surge arresters at Tridelta Meidensha.



Josef Grindling

Project Manager, Vogel moulds and machines, Switzerland

Innovative Manufacturing Processes & Technologies for Liquid Silicone Rubber

Dr. Grindling graduated from the Montanuniversität Leoben in Austria with a Degree in Polymer Engineering and Science. Later, while working, he completed his Doctorate in Mechanical Engineering from the University Paderborn in Germany and his MBA from the University of Zurich in Switzerland. He was employed for 20 years with Ciba Geigy/Novartis, Ciba Specialty Chemicals and Huntsman Advanced Materials in positions such as Technical Service Engineer, Team Leader, Power Application Lab, Manager Processing & Testing and Technology Manager Composites. He joined Vogel moulds and machines AG in 2018.



GU Shanqiang

Chief Engineer, Wuhan NARI State Grid Electric Power Research Institute, China

Surge Arrester Development for Lightning Protection of UHV DC Transmission Lines

Dr. Gu received a PhD in High Voltage Engineering from Tsinghua University in Beijing in 2007. Currently, he is Executive Deputy Director of the Lightning Monitoring and Warning Center of the State Grid Corporation of China. His research interests include lightning monitoring, lightning warning, lightning and overvoltage protection technology and advanced operation of power transmission lines. He is a member of IEC/TC 81 and CIGRE, member of Asia-Pacific Int. Conf. Lightning Steering Committee and Senior Member of IEEE.



Edward Gulski

CEO, onsite hv solutions, Switzerland

Developments in Test Methods & Acceptance Criteria for On/Offshore Power Cables

Dr. Gulski, an IEEE Fellow, received his M.Sc. in information technology from Dresden Univ. of Technology, a Ph.D. from Delft Univ. of Technology and a Doctor Habilitatus from Warsaw Univ. of Technology. A former Professor at Poznan Univ. of Technology and most recently at Lodz Univ. of Technology, he is CEO of an organization of independent companies providing knowledge to power utilities. He has served as Chairman of 4 Cigré Working Groups and is presently Chairman IEEE Working Group PE/IC/F05W/400.4 P400.4, Chairman of IEEE PES ICC Sub G TNL and Swiss member of Cigré WG B1.38. He is author/co-author of 380 publications and 3 books on HV Diagnostics and Asset Management.



Harry Gumilang

Live Line Maintenance & Maintenance, PLN PERSERO (Indonesian TSO), Indonesia

Quality Surveillance During Acquisition Process for Power Transformers: Experience in Indonesia

Mr. Gumilang received his B.A.Sc. from the Dept. of Electrical Engineering, Politeknik Negeri Bandung in 2005 and his M.Sc from the Dept. of Electrical Engineering at Institut Teknologi Bandung in 2015. He has worked for PT PLN (PERSERO) since 2006 and published several conference papers in the area of High Voltage Power Transformer Diagnostics.



Igor Gutman

Independent Insulation Group, Sweden

Chair, SESSION 2: Latest Developments in Insulator Design, Application & Inspection

- 1. Development of IEC-Based Methodology for Site Severity Assessment**
- 2. Application of Composite Insulators: Perceptions vs. Service Experience**

Dr. Gutman received his MSc and PhD in HV engineering from Leningrad Polytechnic Institute and has experience covering 40 years. In 1994 he joined STRI where his main areas of activity included dimensioning and maintenance of insulation in clean and polluted environments; ageing characteristics and accelerated ageing tests. He has published over 200 papers and is a Sr. Member of IEEE. He is also a member of Swedish IEC TC 36 "Insulators", Distinguished Member of CIGRE and active in working groups within CIGRE/IEC/IEEE. He was 2012 recipient of the Claude de Tourreil Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Field of Electrical Insulators and also received IEC's 1906 Awards in recognition of service to technical standards.



Shakir Hafeez

General Manager & Head of Transmission Lines, National Engineering Services, Pakistan

Selecting Optimal Outdoor Insulation Under Heavily Polluted Conditions

Mr. Hafeez obtained his BSc & MSc in Electrical Engineering at the University of Technology & Engineering in Lahore and over his career has had extensive experience in design and control of HV and EHV transmission line projects. He has supervised project planning and scheduling, including conceptual design, cost estimation and design of transmission lines and is an expert in preparing bid documents outlining drawing of towers, insulators, line hardware and accessories. His industry experience also includes inspection and type testing of transmission line material to ensure compliance with specifications. He is also responsible for conductor optimization and insulation coordination under applicable climatic conditions as well as isokeraunic and pollution levels.



Huzainie Shafi Bin Abd Halim

Cable Specialist, Transmission & Distribution, TNB Research, Malaysia

Condition Assessment of Long Length Medium Voltage Underground Cable Using Dual Side Offline Partial Discharge Measurement

Mr. Ts. Huzainie received his Bachelor of Electrical & Electronic Engineering from the University of Portsmouth, U.K. and a Master of Electrical Engineering from Tenaga Nasional University. He is Registered Professional Electrical Engineer and Professional Technologist in Electrical & Electronics. He is currently attached with the High Voltage Diagnostic Research Group at TNB Research where his main focus is on quality assurance, product inspection, insulation diagnostic, failure analysis and assessing remaining life of power cables.



Kjell Halsan

Manager, Electro-Mechanical Section of Transmission Lines, Statnett, Norway

Technical, Environmental & Ethical Aspects for Evaluation of Suppliers for OHL Components

Mr. Halsan received a Master of Science in Electrical Power Engineering from the University of Science and Technology in Trondheim and has been involved in electro-mechanical engineering of transmission lines at Norwegian TSO, Statnett, since 1988. This work included participating in various research projects on electrical components and engineering tools for transmission lines. He has been active in many Cigre working groups, both as Convener and as Member and is currently Convener of B2-CAG.



HE Jinliang

Professor, Dept. of Electrical Engineering, Tsinghua University, China

Deeply Suppressing Overvoltage of 1000 kV AC UHV Power Grid by Low Residual Voltage Surge Arresters

Professor He received a PhD in high voltage engineering from Tsinghua University in Beijing in 1994. Currently, he is a Cheung-Kong Scholar Distinguished Professor of the Ministry of Education of China in the Department of Electrical Engineering, Tsinghua University and leads the university's High Voltage and Insulation Technology Research Institute. His research interests include lightning and overvoltage protection technology, advanced power transmission technology, sensor network and big data mining, nanodielectric materials for recycling HVDC cable and environment-friendly gas-insulated power transmission lines. He was Chairman of several international conferences, is Convener of CIGRE C4.26 and a Fellow of IEEE and IET.



Sam He

Overseas Sales Manager, Dekuma Rubber and Plastic Technology, China

Selecting Injection Machines for Manufacturing Polymeric Insulators & Hollow Core Insulators

Mr. He has worked at Dekuma for over 10 years. His long experience interacting with composite insulator manufacturers from all over the world has given him an understanding of what is involved when choosing the best machines to meet the needs.



Dennis Hore

Department of Chemistry, University of Victoria, Canada

Characterizing Polymer Surfaces to Optimize Insulator Performance & Characteristics

Dr. Hore obtained his Ph.D. in Chemistry at Queen's University and in Physics at the Royal Military College. He then became a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Oregon, studying solvent and surfactant structure using a variety of computational and spectroscopic techniques. He joined the Chemistry Department at the University of Victoria in 2006, where he develops advanced optical methods and complementary theory to resolve fine structural details of molecules adsorbed at the solid-liquid interface, with special interest in influence of water on interfacial polymer structure. Through collaboration with ASAsoft (Canada), he has been studying silicone surfaces in response to chemical, electrical and biological stresses.



Marc Jeroense

CEO, MarCable Consulting, Sweden

Quality Assurance & Quality Control of HVDC Cable Systems

Dr. Jeroense's professional career in the global power cable industry spans more than 25 years and has involved such activities as managing global R&D projects and portfolios, heading a HV test laboratory and serving as Product Manager at the interface of market and technology. With long experience in the CIGRE community, he has contributed toward several standards and operated across various organizational levels - from expert to Convener to Member of the Strategy Advisory Group. HVDC systems in the renewables sector have provided fertile ground for innovation and Marc has been at the forefront in development and qualification of 525 & 640 kV cable systems. He is an IEEE Senior Member and has received the CIGRE Technical Council Award.



Thomas Johansson

Principal, InsuConsult, Sweden

Opportunities to Further Develop Porcelain Insulator Technology in Terms of Performance & Cost

Dr. Johansson studied in Sweden and completed his PhD in the area of thermodynamics. He has had a long career in areas that include silicon nitride ceramics and porcelain electrical insulators, joining Ceram/PPC Insulators in the 1990s as Group Head, Responsible for Ceramic Technology, before being appointed Chief Technical Officer. He has also served as Chief Operating Officer at WS Industries in India. Presently, he is an international consultant assisting insulator manufacturers in such areas as technical and economic improvement in production.



Ivan Jovanovic

Director of Engineering, Specialty Products, G&W Electric, United States

Customized Test Program for 220/230 kV Cables & Accessories per IEC, GB, AEIC & ICEA Requirements

Mr. Jovanovic obtained his Electrical Engineering Degree from the University of Belgrade and his MBA from the University of Chicago. In 2001, he joined G&W Electric and currently has global responsibility for Technology and Engineering of Specialty Products including Cable Accessories. He oversees development and introduction of HV and EHV terminations and joints for extruded and oil-impregnated paper cables up to 500 kV and is involved in all aspects of cable systems, from design to field application. He has authored numerous papers, been a speaker at local and international conferences and represents the U.S. in CIGRE and IEC advisory boards and technical committees. He is Vice Chair of PES Insulated Conductor Subcommittee B (Cable Accessories) and leads the IEEE Standard for Cable Terminations and Joints.



Jan Juhasz

Product Manager, PPC Insulators Group, Slovakia

Porcelain Long Rod versus Cap & Pin Insulators: Impact on Overhead Line Design

Mr. Juhasz graduated from the University of Technology in Bratislava with a BSc and MSc in Cybernetics and later from Applied Math and Automation College in Phoenix. Prior to joining PPC Insulators, he worked at Schneider Electric where he was Group Engineering Manager. He also served as V.P. Engineering at FaradayGrid and has held positions with Siemens managing complex T&D utility projects. His technology background focuses on automation, advanced control algorithms and power electric systems.



Thomas Koch

Team Lead, Sales & Business Development, Siemens Energy, Germany

Online Trend Analysis of Total Leakage Current: The Key to Monitoring Condition of Surge Arresters

Mr. Koch received his Engineering Degree from Brandenburg Technical University and joined Siemens ten years ago as Area Sales Manager. In 2016, he became Product Manager for Arresters & Insulators and this year was appointed Team Lead, with focus on sales and business development for this product portfolio.



Bart Kruizinga

Consultant, Smart Cable Guard, DNV GL, Singapore

Opportunities & Challenges in On-Line Partial Discharge Monitoring of MV Cables in Practical Environments

Dr. Kruizinga obtained his PhD degree from the Eindhoven University of Technology focusing on degradation mechanisms and novel diagnostics for low voltage underground power cables. In 2017, he joined DNV GL in The Netherlands, where he specialized in failure investigations for medium and high voltage cables worldwide. Currently, he is an expert consultant on DNV GL's Smart Cable Guard, working on development of on-line measurement practices and site-specific investigations.



Jan Lachman

Director, EGU-HV Laboratory, Czech Republic

Testing Quality of Sheath-to-Rod Bonding in Polymeric Insulators to Assure Satisfactory Long-Term Performance

Dr. Lachman graduated from the Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Electrical Engineering where he later received his PhD degree. After graduation, he joined EGU-HV Laboratory as a test engineer. He has also had experience as a design engineer when working abroad. He is active in IEC/CIGRE Working Groups and represents the Czech Republic in SC D1.



Werner Lesse

Business Development, Siemens Energy AG, Germany

Trends & Beneficial Applications of Surge Arresters

Mr. Lesse received a Dipl.-Ing. Degree in Electrical Engineering with focus on high voltage power grid management from the University of Wuppertal. He has worked for Siemens AG in several functions in the Energy Management Sector, covering MV/HV air and gas insulated switchgear, SCADA and protection system, power transformer and surge arrester global business development. Currently, he is responsible for transmission switching products in North and Central America, including station and distribution class surge arresters as well as overhead line solutions including transmission line arrester and composite insulators.



Paul Leufkens

Principal, Power Projects Leufkens, United States

Chair, SESSION 4: Testing & Condition Assessment of Cable Systems & Accessories

Cable Testing: State of the Art, Standards & Technological Developments

Mr. Leufkens holds an MS EE Degree from Delft Technical University in the Netherlands and has had more than 20 years' experience as an executive in the power sector. He worked internationally for consulting and testing companies, including 13 years with KEMA in Netherlands and in the United States. Previously he directed product development in the cable and switchgear industry. In recent years, he has built technical and business cases for new High Voltage, High Power and Energy Storage laboratories as well as a technical and commercial market introduction of new generation switchgear. His U.S.-based consulting firm now provides strategic support to manufacturers and testing organizations in growing their business.



LIANG Xidong

Professor, Electrical Engineering Dept., Tsinghua University, China

Progress on Revision of IEC TS 60815

Professor LIANG is one of China's pre-eminent experts in the field of composite insulators and also among the country's leading academics teaching power engineering at Tsinghua University in Beijing. With more than 25 years R&D experience in this field, he is also influential in standards setting bodies for insulators, represents China at CIGRE and has been closely involved with INMR Congresses going back to 2001. He is Convenor of IEC TC36 WG11, working on revision of IEC TS 60815, and Convenor of IEC TC36 MT19, working on revising IEC 62217.



Nancy Liu

International Sales Manager, Yizumi Rubber Machinery, China

Moulding Machine Technology & Solutions for Insulators & Cable Accessories

Ms. Liu has been International Sales Manager since 2009 and has had more than 15 years of experience in the rubber machinery industry. She has presented papers at international events, including past INMR WORLD CONGRESSES in Korea, Canada, Germany and Spain.



LIU Wenfeng

Professor, School of Electrical Engineering, Xi'an Jiaotong University, China

Tailoring Overall Properties of ZnO Varistors by Point Defects

Dr. LIU received her PhD degree from Xi'an Jiaotong University in 2009. Her research interests include lead-free piezoelectrics, insulation materials, energy storage capacitor materials and functional composite materials.



LUO Bing

Director of High Voltage Department, Electric Power Research Institute of China Southern Power Grid, China

Applications of Surge Arresters for Lightning Protection of Transmission Lines

Dr. LUO is a Professor Senior Engineer and Vice Secretary General of the China Committee of CIGRE B3 as well as Vice Director of China's Insulator Standards Committee. He has for many years been in charge of research in the field of high voltage technology and engaged in management of power networks.



Vesa Malinen

Transmission Line Maintenance Specialist, Fingrid, Finland

Impact of Biological Growths on Application of Composite Insulators: Experience under European Conditions

Mr. Malinen received his Bachelor and Master Degrees in Electrical Engineering from Aalto University in Espoo. He currently works as Transmission Line Maintenance Specialist at the Finnish transmission system operator, Fingrid.



Patrick Maloney

Chief Engineer, PPC Insulators, United States

Cyclic Loading of LV & MV Porcelain Insulators

Mr. Maloney holds a BS ME degree from Purdue University and has worked for PPC Insulators for the past 19 years, coordinating product testing, quality and application engineering. He is active in American Standards Committees, including NEMA and C29 insulator Working Groups.



Arun Mankodi

Managing Director, Kloeckner Desma Machinery, India

Special Solutions for Efficient Production of Quality Insulators & Cable Accessories Made from Elastomers

Mr. Mankodi graduated in Mechanical Engineering. After a long career in machine manufacturing as well as plastic extrusion and injection molding, he joined Desma in 1995. Over the past two and a half decades, he has helped develop cost effective solutions for tooled up complete solutions for polymeric insulators and surge arresters, among other industry applications, including molds and cold runner blocks. Desma India has a base of 1500 machines installed domestically and 350 machines exported to 22 countries.



Mohd Muzafar Bin Ismail

Sr. Lecturer & Researcher, Faculty of Engineering Technology, Electrical & Electronics, University Teknikal Melaka, Malaysia

Lightning Safety on HV Grid Components

Dr. Ismail received his PhD in Atmospheric Discharges from Uppsala University in Sweden under the supervision of Prof. Vernon Cooray. His present research interests focus on atmospheric discharges, specifically lightning electromagnetics and lightning safety. He is Graduate Member and Professional Engineer with the Board of Engineers of Malaysia. Presently, he is active in teaching, consulting and research in the field of lightning and electromagnetics.



Chade Neeman

Development Engineer - Insulators & Line Arresters, Siemens Energy, Germany

765 kV Externally Gapped Line Surge Arrester (EGLA): Steps in Design, Testing & Integration

Mr. Neeman has a B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering from the Technical University of Berlin. He began working at Siemens Energy in the Engineering Department for arresters and insulators in 2015. In early 2020, he started as a Development Engineer at Siemens Energy to focus on further development of composite insulators and externally gapped line arresters.



Tobias Neier

Cable Diagnostics Expert, Baur, Austria

Increasing Confidence in MV Cable Testing & Diagnostics

Mr. Neier (a graduate Ing. & MBA) is an expert in MV cable diagnostics with numerous years of international experience. He has worked as a Technical Advisor for power utilities across the globe to establish diagnostic philosophies that go beyond simple application of diagnostic devices. His extensive background as Trainer and Consultant has also allowed him to publish papers and presentations in this field at events such as CMD, IEEE PES, Cable Tech, EDC SEA, GTD Asia as well as CIRET T&D conferences.



Marco Nosilati

Technology Leader, GE Grid Solutions, Italy

Pollution Design & On-Site Monitoring of Insulators for AIS Disconnectors

Mr. Nosilati is an Electrical Engineer, graduated at the University of Padova with a Masters thesis in collaboration with the Helsinki University of Technology. He started his work experience in 2009 as R&D Test Engineer in Areva and he is currently the Technology Leader of air-insulated disconnectors in GE Grid Solutions. He is holder of several patent applications linked mainly to HV equipment and technological solutions for HVDC applications. He has served as a member of IEC as well as ad hoc Working Groups for DC switchgear.



Rajkumar Padmawar

CEO & President, ASASoft, Canada

Molecular Characterization of Polymeric Surfaces

Mr. Padmawar developed efficient systems for manufacturing electroceramic products in Seto, Japan and later worked in development of cross-linked plastics with memory functions. He has been successful in creating composite insulators for T&D as well as for 25 kV applications for railways in infrastructure priority markets in South Asia.



Alberto Pigni

T&D Expert Consultant, Italy

Chair, SESSION 5: Site Severity Assessment & Line/Substation Design for Polluted Service Environments

1. Pollution Design & Testing: Unresolved Issues

2. RTV Coatings on Ceramic Insulators: Latest Developments and R&D Needs

Dr. Pigni received a Doctoral Degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Milan. He worked for more than 35 years at CESI, first as a researcher, then as Research Manager and finally as Division Director, responsible for a number of aspects of HV electrical system, including environmental impact and generation. He is a Distinguished Member of CIGRE, Fellow of IEEE and active in various WG and Committees at these bodies. Recipient of the 2015 Claude de Turreil Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Field of Electrical Insulators, he acts as consultant to international clients and has also served as expert Contributor to INMR for more than 10 years.



Christian Pons

Research Engineer, EDF Lab les Renardières, Electricité de France, France

Global Overview of Pollution Mapping for Power Utilities & How to Draw a Pollution Map on a Local Scale

Mr. Pons joined the Electrical Equipment Laboratory at EDF Lab Les Renardières in 2001, where he has worked in the fields of software data processing as well as metrology management for high voltage and high current equipment. His current position is Research Engineer on external insulation. For more than a decade now, he has dealt with studies and tests on insulators for both overhead line and substation applications, with the main research focus being on insulator performance, behavior under pollution, monitoring and diagnostics. He is a member of IEC TC 36 'Insulators'



Hein Putter

Manager, Testing & Diagnostics, Megger, Germany

Application Strategies for Offline Measurement of PD in Power Cables

Mr. Putter received his M.Sc. degree in Electrical Engineering from Delft University of Technology in 2007. In his thesis "Investigation of Water Treeing – Electrical Treeing Transition in Polymeric Insulation of Service Aged Power Cables", he investigated methods to determine the condition of service aged cables using several diagnostic techniques. He joined SebaKMT/ Megger Germany as Technical Support Engineer for cable testing and diagnosis and since 2011 has been working as Product Manager in this department. He is active in national and international bodies, including being a member of Cigre Working Group B1.58-Asset Management of MV Cables.



Milan Radosavljevic

Sr. Asset Manager, Svenska Kraftnät (Swedish TSO), Sweden

Application of Composite Apparatus Insulators at Substations: Policy, Driving Forces & Service Experience

Mr. Radosavljevic obtained his M Sc in Electrical Engineering from the University of Belgrade. After working in different roles in design and building of substations, HV cables and overhead lines in Nigeria, Russia and Serbia, he spent 15 years in the Swedish power industry as a consultant at SwedPower and Vattenfall Power Consultants before joining Svenska Kraftnät in 2011. His experience covering over 20 years has made him an expert in substations and cables, covering all aspects from design to installation to commissioning to refurbishment. This includes writing technical guidelines for components such as post insulators, insulator sets, surge arresters and connectors.



Darcy Ramalho de Mello

Consultant & Researcher, Brazil

Practical Application of Pollution Standards: Issues & Questions

Mr. Mello studied Electrical Engineering at Rio de Janeiro Federal University where he obtained his Masters Degree. He worked as Research Engineer in the Electrical Energy Research Center (CEPEL) from 1978 to 2013, focusing on high-voltage and pollution tests on insulators for overhead lines and substations. Currently, he works as Consultant for several Brazilian electric utilities in insulation dimensioning and R&D for new lines. He is Chairman of the Brazilian Working Group for Insulator Standards, Brazil's representative in IEC 36, a member of IEEE and Cigré and active in various WGs in Cigré and IEC.



Philipp Raschke

R&D Manager, Tridelta Meidensha, Germany

Smart & Effective Monitoring of Surge Arresters: Utility Experience & Feedback

Mr. Raschke graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Electrical Engineering at the University of Cooperative Education in Gera, Germany. He began his career in 2009 as Product Developer working on overvoltage protection electronics for Gigabit Ethernet. He later received his Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering at the University of Applied Sciences in Leipzig. Since then, he has served as Product Specialist at Tridelta Meidensha, where he is responsible for development of polymer-housed surge arresters as well as surge arrester diagnostic products.



Iryani Mohamed Rawi

Head, Product Certification & Quality Assurance, Tenaga Nasional Berhad, Malaysia

Chair, SESSION 6: Testing & Certification Procedures to Ensure Application of Quality MV/HV Grid Components

Quality Evaluation of MV/HV Network Components at TNB: Experience with Failures & Lessons Learned

Dr. Rawi received a bachelor degree in Electrical Engineering from Universiti Teknologi and completed her doctorate focusing on protecting transmission lines against lightning. She has worked in the Engineering Department of the Transmission Division at Tenaga Nasional Berhad since 2002. Originally, she was responsible for design and innovation of transmission lines equipment with main interests in transmission line engineering & design, surge arresters and lightning protection on power systems. More recently, she has headed up the Quality Control & Certification of Components used on TNB's extensive transmission and distribution networks.



Jeefferie Bin Abd Razak

Sr. Lecturer & Researcher, Center of Smart System & Innovative Design, Universiti Teknikal Melaka, Malaysia

Development & Testing of Silicone Rubber Filled Synthetic Wollastonite Dielectric Composite for HV Applications

Dr. Razak received his PhD in Materials Science from National University of Malaysia. His research interests are on polymer & rubber blends, dielectric & conductive polymeric composites and polymer based nanocomposites. He is a Chartered Engineer with Engineering Council (EC), UK and appointed as Professional Technologist in nanotechnology. Presently, he serves as Sr. Lecturer at the Faculty of Manufacturing Engineering and is active in consultation and research in engineering materials design, testing and optimization.



Kamran Rezaei

Transmission Design Engineer, Transpower, New Zealand

Application of Leakage Current Monitoring in Design of HVDC Insulation

Mr Rezaei holds a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from Azad University in Tehran. He has worked as transmission line designer for 15 years, starting first with engineering consulting firms in Iran and later at hydropower generators such as Statkraft in Europe. Currently, he is responsible for design of insulators and transmission lines at New Zealand's TSO.



Markku Ruokanen

PPC Group Quality and R&D Director

Impact of Residual Quartz on Lifetime of High Strength Porcelain

Mr. Ruokanen has an M.Sc. degree in Materials Science from the University of Technology in Helsinki, Finland. Before joining PPC in 2014, he held several leading technical positions at Maxwell Technologies in both the Ultra-Capacitor and HV Capacitor Divisions. He is a member of Cigré Switzerland.



Frank Schmuck

T&D Expert, Switzerland

Chair, SESSION 7: Optimizing Material Properties & Production Technologies for Polymeric MV/HV Components for Power Grids

Dr. Schmuck has been working in the field of composite outdoor insulation for over 30 years, most recently as Corporate Technology Director at Pfisterer in Germany. In 1994 he became a member of various CIGRE and IEC Working Groups and runs the CIGRE Working Group "Insulators" since 2006. Since 2007, he has written as columnist for the INMR, co-authored a monograph on 'Silicone Composite Insulators' in 2011 and contributed the insulator chapter to the first CIGRE 'Green Book on Overhead Lines' in 2014.



Glenn Stapleton

Principal Engineer, Transmission Lines & Cables, Powerlink Queensland, Australia

Evaluation of Insulation & Flashover Risks During Tower Surface Preparation & Painting

Mr. Stapleton has 25 years' experience with Powerlink Queensland, the transmission network owner, operator and maintainer in the State of Queensland. Over this time, he has held senior engineering roles across a portfolio of transmission projects, including project electrical design and transmission line construction management. Presently, he is responsible for electrical design standards, including overhead line and underground cable primary procurement standards. He is a Fellow of Engineers Australia, and presently Chairs the Standards Australia Committee EL-010 Overhead Lines. He also undertakes post-graduate lecturing at the Queensland University of Technology, specializing in overhead and underground cable ratings.



Kai P. Steinfeld

Managing Director, ohv Diagnostic, Germany

Partial Discharge Localisation and Diagnosis of MV & HV Power Cables Using Damped Alternating Current

Dr. Steinfeld studied Electrical Engineering at Berlin University of Technology, specializing in High Voltage and Electric Power Engineering. He was awarded Ph.D. degree for his scientific work on ageing phenomena of medium voltage power cables. His professional career has covered companies such as Siemens, Pfisterer and the Saudi Cable Company where he held various management positions including Head of R&D and Chief Technology Officer. In 2018, he joined ohv diagnostic - a firm specializing in measurement, analysis and localization of partial discharges.



Gobi Kannan Supramaniam

Specialist Engineer, Tenaga Nasional Berhad, Malaysia

Development of Innovative Technical Solutions for Intelligent Transformer Monitoring

Mr. Kannan holds a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering Degree from Western Michigan University and a Masters of Power Engineering from Tenaga Nasional University. He is a Registered Professional Engineer as well as Chartered Electrical Engineer (IET UK) with Tenaga Nasional Berhad's Transmission Division and represents the Malaysia National Committee in CIGRE WG A2. Currently, he is responsible for new technology assessment, diagnostics and equipment performance improvement for the Transformer Unit in TNB's Engineering Department. In his previous position, Mr. Kannan was responsible for Asset Management and Maintenance where he performed technical assessments of new technologies. He has been Secretary for the launch of the ASEAN Bushing Guidebook.



Wan Syakirah Wan Abdullah

Head Business Assessment & Engineering, TNB Renewables, Malaysia

Quality Assurance for Renewable Energy Projects

Ir. Syakirah, an Electrical Engineer with Professional Engineer Certification, holds a Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering from UNITEN and is currently pursuing her PhD in th field. She has had 18 years experience in power systems, including managing transmission networks, generation scheduling and load forecasting. She has also managed the tariff setting mechanism for Peninsular Malaysia. Her current portfolio covers international and local energy related business development, with focus on renewable energy including solar, mini hydro, biogas, biomass, waste to energy and energy storage.



Vishantini Tangavaloo

Technical Expert, Product Development, Synergy Oil & Gas Engineering, Malaysia

Testing & Application of Hybrid Control System in Solar/Wind Turbine Power Generation System

Ms. Vishantini obtained her Chemical Engineering Degree from the University Technology of PETRONAS and her MS Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering from the National University of Malaysia. She now heads product development and her present research interests focus across the oil & gas industry's Renewable Energy & Production Enhancement. She has developed recognized commercial products that received the Spotlight New Technology Award in 2020 and is active in mentoring and research in production enhancement, renewables and energy optimization.



Wallace Vosloo

Corporate Specialist High Voltage Engineering, Eskom, South Africa

1. Utility Perspective on Outdoor Insulator Selection for Polluted Environments 2. Failure Analysis of End Fitting Seal on Composite Insulator

Dr. Vosloo is a distinguished international expert in the field of electrical insulation. Over a career spanning decades at one of the world's largest power utilities, he has presented many training courses in the field and also authored over 100 papers on high voltage insulators. His published texts include: "The Practical Guide to Outdoor High Voltage Insulators", co-authored by Roy Macey and Dr. Claude de Tourreil, and "High Voltage Engineering Practice and Theory" along with Dr. Holtzhausen. He is recipient of the SAIEE President's Award for contribution to development of high voltage insulator research, investigation capabilities and standards in South Africa as well as the Claude de Tourreil Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement in Field of Electrical Insulation. Dr. Vosloo is active in several national and international working groups.



Andre Wagner

Power Cable Asset Manager, TenneT, Germany

Dimensioning of DC Porcelain & Composite Cable Terminations: Experience in Europe

Dr. Wagner completed his studies in Electrical Power Engineering and Economics at RWTH Aachen University in 2011 and received the German University Diploma (Dipl.-Wirt.-Ing.). He later worked as a Research Associate in HV insulation systems and diagnostics at the Institute for High Voltage Technology at RWTH Aachen University and received his PhD in Electrical Engineering in 2017. He is currently Asset Manager for Power Cables at German TSO, TenneT, focusing mainly on design and quality assurance of onshore and offshore HVDC cable systems. He is also involved in investigation, evaluation and implementation of advanced technologies for quality assurance, condition assessment and failure location.



Dan Windmar

Vice President, STRI, Sweden

1. Operating an Independent Accredited Laboratory in a Large Manufacturing Organization 2. Influence of Variation in Rain Parameters on Flashover Voltage of Insulators

Dr. Windmar received a Ph.D. degree in high voltage engineering from Uppsala University in Sweden. His professional experience includes extensive work in such areas as insulators (production, testing, materials), high power testing, high voltage testing and dielectric insulation. He has held several management positions at ABB and since 2009 has served as Vice President, Testing at STRI.



Joel Yeo Wei Wen

PhD Candidate, Singapore University of Technology & Design, Singapore

Practical Application of Neural Networks in Measuring Partial Discharges in MV Power Cables

Mr. Yeo was awarded the B.Eng. Degree (first class honours) in Electrical Engineering from Queensland University of Technology in 2014. Thereafter, he studied in the high voltage laboratory of the Technical University of Delft where he obtained his M.Sc. degree in 2016. Presently he is Ph.D. candidate at Singapore University of Technology and Design where he performs research on applications of deep learning techniques to measurements of partial discharge.



Chris Yu

Project Engineer, ASTA Observer, Intertek, China

MV/HV Cable System Testing & Certification Technology

Mr. Yu received his training as a HV wire and cable product test and certification engineer and also has a background in testing and certification of switchgear and busbar systems. He has more than 5 years experience in cable design, manufacturing and testing and also 5 years as an ASTA Observer.



Ahmad Zaidi

School of Electrical System Engineering, Universiti Malaysia Perlis, Malaysia

On-Site Partial Discharge Measurement Using Rogowski Coil for Insulation Condition in MV Power Cables

Dr. Ts. Zaidi Abdullah received a BEng. in Industrial Electronic Engineering from the University Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP) and an MEng. Electrical Power from the Energy University (UNITEN). He recently completed his doctorate focused on using Rogowski coils to measure and detect partial discharges in power cables. Serving as electrical engineer at the Malaysian Public Works Department, he handled more than 25 new projects. Since 2011, he has served as Senior Lecturer at UniMAP, with research interests that include partial discharge measurement, solar PV application and energy management.



Jill Zhou

Manager, Solar & Commercial Products, TÜV Rheinland, China

Developing Test Specifications for Wind Power Cables, Cables for Battery Energy Storage & Liquid Cooled Cables

Ms. Zhou has worked at TÜV Rheinland (Shanghai) since 2002. Starting 2006, she began to study test methods and standards for low voltage electrical cables, focusing on new energy cables, and participated in drafting of EV cables, initially named 2 PFG 1908. Using her accumulated experience in this field, she finished and released test specification 2 PFG 2577 for cables used in robotic systems and 2 PFG 2693 for cables used in battery energy storage systems.



Raouf Znaidi

T&D Expert, Tunisia

Laboratory Simulation of Harsh Desert/Industrial/Marine Pollution: Current Situation & Future Challenges

Mr. Znaidi has had a long career at STEG, the power grid operator in Tunisia, where he was responsible for setting up insulator test stations across the country. Through this work he has become an expert on the comparative performance of different insulator types and designs in severe service environments. He has visited power companies across the globe reporting on service problems as well as remedial solutions using RTV coatings to combat pollution flashover. He is active in relevant CIGRE Working Groups.