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Speakers & Topics / Oradores e temas / Oradores y temas

(Jun 17, 2026)

Rafael Alipio

Professor, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais / UFMG Brazil

Methodology for Optimizing Surge Arrester Placement in Overhead Transmission Lines Subjected to Lightning

Metodologia para otimizar a instalação de para-raios em linhas de transmissão aéreas sujeitas a descargas atmosféricas

Metodología para optimizar la ubicación de los pararrayos en líneas de transmisión aéreas expuestas a descargas atmosféricas.

Bio coming soon.

Amedeo Andreotti

Professor, University of Naples Federico II, Italy

Topic still being finalized / Tema ainda por definir / Tema aún por definir

Prof. Andreotti, Sr Member of IEEE, received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering from the University Federico II in Naples, Italy. He is author or co-author of more than 200 scientific publications in reviewed journals as well as at international conferences. His research interests include transients in power systems, effects of lightning on power systems, electromagnetic compatibility, power quality and smart grids. He is also an Editor for the IEEE Transactions on Power Delivery and an Associate Editor for IEEE ACCESS, High Voltage (IET) and Electrical Engineering (Springer). Dr. Andreotti is a member of the IEEE Working Group Lightning Performance of Distribution Lines and has also served as member of section MT600 of TC1 of the International Electrotechnical Commission.

Paulino Aparicio

Department of Line Engineering, Red Eléctrica (Redeia), Spain

State of the Art - FAT Procedure of Composite Insulators (ENG)

Procedimento FAT de última geração para isoladores compostos.

Procedimiento FAT de vanguardia para aisladores compuestos

Bio coming soon

Zhuolin Cheng

Associate Professor, Xi'An University (XJTU) China

Topic still being finalized / Tema ainda por definir / Tema aún por definir

Bio coming soon.

Wagner Costa

Consultant, WMF Consultoria, Brazil

Topic still being finalized / Tema ainda por definir / Tema aún por definir

Bio coming soon.

Carla Damasceno Peixoto

Independent Consultant in HV Underground Lines, Brazil

Passive Fire Protection for Insulated Cables installed in Gas-Insulated Substations (ENG)

Proteção passiva contra incêndio para cabos isolados instalados em subestações isoladas a gás

Protección pasiva contra incendios para cables aislados instalados en subestaciones con aislamiento de gas

Ms. Damasceno graduated as an Electrical Engineer from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) as well as an MBA from LACTEC and the Federal Fluminense University and completed postgraduate work in power systems at UFRJ. An active member of CIGRE SC B1 (Insulated Cables), she has served in the Strategic Advisory Group and Tutorial Advisory Group as well as Convener of SC B1 Customer Advisory Group and is a Women in Energy Representative. She has experience in Project and Installation Management of Underground Lines as an Engineer in the Energy Transmission and Distribution Utility of Rio de Janeiro City, Light SESA.

Michele de Nigris

Director, Sustainable Development & Energy Sources, Italy

Topic still being finalized / Tema ainda por definir / Tema aún por definir

Mr. de Nigris is Director of the Sustainable Development and Energy Sources Department of RSE - Research on the Energy System. An Electrical engineer, he actively worked in the transmission and distribution technologies sector at CESI and subsequently in RSE, before addressing main challenges related to the interaction of the energy systems with the environment. Active in the international context, he leads the European SetPlan Implementation Group on resilient energy networks and represents Italy in coordination committees of the International Energy Agency. He is actively involved in standardization as chair of the Committee “integrated energy systems” of the Italian Electrotechnical Commission.

Luis Diaz

R&D Engineer / RTE/CNER, Overhead Lines Division, France

State of the Art - FAT Procedure of Composite Insulators (ENG)

Procedimento FAT de última geração para isoladores compostos.

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Dr. Diaz obtained his Engineering Degree from the University Simon Bolivar in Caracas, Venezuela. He then furthered his education with a Master of Science in Power Engineering in 2012, later earning a Ph.D. in High Frequency Electronics from the University of Limoges in France through a CIFRE program in collaboration with EDF R&D. He specializes in the technical specification of composite insulators and line surge arresters and his current research is focused on diagnosing composite insulators and measuring lightning current in line surge arresters. Over the years, he has contributed to this field with more than 20 published articles on topics such as lightning transient studies, high voltage engineering and insulation coordination. He is the French member of IEC TC 36 and 37: Insulators and surge arresters, respectively and contributes to these standardization activities. In CIGRE, he serves in both B2 and C4 Committees, contributing to several Working Groups.

Selma Grebovic

Associate Professor, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina

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Dr. Grebovic holds a Ph.D. in Electrical Power Engineering from Graz University of Technology in Austria. With a background in electrical power engineering, she specializes in high voltage engineering and system performance. Her expertise spans domains including IIoT solutions, embedded systems design, insulation coordination studies as well as development of advanced measurement systems for high voltage applications. A member of both IEEE and CIGRE, she possesses expertise in analyzing transient phenomena in electrical power systems and is engaged in numerous industrial projects to actively contribute toward advancements in the field.

Melania Grimaldos Carretero

Red Electrica España, Spain

State of the art - inspection of composite insulators using drones and AI

Tecnologia de ponta - inspeção de isoladores compostos usando drones e IA

Tecnología de vanguardia: inspección de aisladores compuestos mediante drones e inteligencia artificial

Bio coming soon.

Muhammad Shariq Hassan

Senior Distribution Engineer, Network Assets – Overhead Lines, ESB Networks, Ireland

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Dr. Hassan received his Ph.D. from the University of Galway in Ireland in 2018, where he developed novel finite element models for structural and earthquake engineering applications and published several papers in peer reviewed journals and at conferences. After working as Project Engineer with multiple consultancies in Ireland, he joined the Electricity Supply Board (ESB) in 2021 and has played a key role in managing several CAPEX and OPEX projects for delivery of specialized OHL transmission projects. Additionally, he oversees ESB network assets for DSO lines and holds the position of Lead Inspector for factory quality audit and type testing of innovative materials such as composites, OPGW/OPPC, etc. He is an active member of CIGRE, CEATI and other professional organizations.

Marc Jeroense

Principal, MJ MarCable Consulting AB, Sweden

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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.

Tomas Johansson

CEO, InsuConsult AB, Sweden

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Dr. Johansson studied in Sweden and completed his PhD in the area of thermodynamics. He has 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

Fabian Lehretz

Asset Technology, Overhead Lines, TenneT TSO GmbH, Germany

Topic still being finalized / Tema ainda por definir / Tema aún por definir

Mr. Lehretz studied composite materials at Hof University and subsequently worked for nine years in the R&D Department at Lapp Insulators. Since 2019, he has been responsible for insulators and corrosion protection at TenneT TSO GmbH, a large power grid operator in Germany. He is Convenor of CIGRE WG B2.80 (Numerical Simulation of Composite Insulator Strings) and IEC 63264 Insulators with integrated optical fibres.

Andres Lopez

Transmission Senior Associate Project Engineer, WSP, United States

Topic still being finalized / Tema ainda por definir / Tema aún por definir

Bio coming soon.

Deivid Marins

OHL Senior Engineer, Aprot Engenharia, Brazil

Lightning studies / Estudos de raios / Estudios sobre rayos

Bio coming soon.

Carlo Alberto Nucci

Professor of Electrical Power Systems, University of Bologna Italy

Lightning studies / Estudos de raios / Estudios sobre rayos

Bio coming soon.

Ertugrul Partal

Lead Technical Consultant, GDZ Elektrik, Turkiye

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Mr. Partal graduated from Teesside University in the field of Electrical Engineering and completed his post-graduate degree in Advanced Manufacturing Systems at this same university. He worked as a Power Systems Engineer at EDF Energy Networks Branch, one of the Power Distribution System Operators in England and later at National Grid Electricity Transmission as a Senior Power Systems Specialist, also serving as Department Head of the System Technical Performance. He continued his career at Turkish Electricity Transmission Corporation. Currently, he is member of Cigre WG C4.67, representing ADM electricity distribution company. His expertise lies in insulation coordination (lightning protection), grounding systems, and steady-state power quality.

Jayson Patrick

Founder & Technical Directo, ELEK Software, Australia

Topic still being finalized / Tema ainda por definir / Tema aún por definir

Bio coming soon.

Martin Pedersen

Energinet, Denmark

State of the art - inspection of composite insulators using drones and AI

Tecnologia de ponta - inspeção de isoladores compostos usando drones e IA

Tecnología de vanguardia: inspección de aisladores compuestos mediante drones e inteligencia artificial

Bio coming soon.

Alexandre Piantini

Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil

Topic still being finalized / Tema ainda por definir / Tema aún por definir

Bio coming soon.

Alberto Pigini

High Voltage Engineering Senior Consultant, Italy

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Dr. Pigini 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 Tourreil Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Field of Electrical Insulators, he acts as consultant to international clients and has also . de soporte técnico para pruebas y diagnóstico de cables y desde 2011 trabaja como gerente de producto en este departamento. Participa activamente en organismos nacionales e internacionales, incluido el de Cigre Working Group B1.58-Gestión de activos de cables MV.

Darcy Ramalho de Mello

Consultant, Brazil

Influence of the Non-Uniformity of Pollution Distribution on AC Insulators (ENG)

Influência da não uniformidade na distribuição da poluição em isoladores de corrente alternada

Influência da não uniformidade na distribuição da poluição em isoladores de corrente alternada

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 sub-stations. 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.

Angelica Rocha

Consultant, ATG Engenharia & Inovação, Brazil

Insulator Failure During Arc Furnace Energization: A Case Study in Transformer–Power System Interaction

Falha do isolador durante a energização do forno de arco: um estudo de caso na interação transformador-sistema de energia

Fallo del aislador durante la energización de un horno de arco: un estudio de caso sobre la interacción entre el transformador y el sistema eléctrico

Bio coming soon.

Robert Ross

Professor, IWO Institute for Science & Development, The Netherlands

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Dr. Ross is Director at the Institute for Science & Development, Ede and Professor at HAN University of Applied Sciences. He is also Asset Management Research Strategist for the transmission grid operator in the Netherlands and parts of Germany. He worked in the past at KEMA in the area of reliability and post-failure forensic investigation and his present fields of specialization include reliability statistics, electro-technical materials, sustainable technology and superconductivity. He is author of 'Reliability Analysis for Asset Management of Electric Power Grids' based on his extensive experience with power utilities.

Pernilla Sahlén

Svenska kraftnät Sweden

Topic still being finalized / Tema ainda por definir / Tema aún por definir

Bio coming soon.

Mario Augusto Caetano dos Santos

Maintenance Engineering Division, Itaipu Binacional, Brazill

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Mr. Santos received his BSc in Electrical Engineering from UNIDERP, Brazil in 2010 and his MSc in Technology Development from LACTEC Institute, Brazil in 2017. He joined AES Corporation as Area Maintenance Coordinator for distribution power grid in 1998 and later Eletrosul-Eletrobras, focusing on maintenance of high voltage equipment. Since 2011, he works in the Maintenance Engineering Division of Itaipu Binacional where he is responsible for managing high voltage assets. He is Secretary of CIGRÉ Study Committee A3 (Brazil) and Coordinator of the Technical Group for Substation Equipment – Association of Brazilian Power Transmission Companies.

Frank Schmuck

President, Schmuck HV Insulation Consulting GmbH, Switzerland

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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.

Jens Seifert

Senior Technical Expert, Saver, Italy

Topic still being finalized / Tema ainda por definir / Tema aún por definir

Nueva generación de aisladores poliméricos con el núcleo hueco: Cumplimiento de los aspectos medioambientales y de sostenibilidad

Dr. Seifert obtained his Ph.D. degree from TU Branschweig in 1998. He has had over 20 years of experience in development of composite materials for high voltage insulating applications. In 2018 he joined the MR Group as Senior Expert for basic development and in 2024 became an independent consultant, where he now serves as Senior Expert for Saver in Italy.

Fernando Henrique Silveira

Associate Professor, Electrical Engineering Dept, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil

Improving Calculation of Lightning Performance of Transmission Lines: Constraints on Applying Statistical Distributions of Current Parameters (ENG)

Mejora del cálculo del rendimiento de rayos de líneas de transmisión: limitaciones en la aplicación de distribuciones estadísticas de parámetros de corrientes

Prof. Silveira received his B.Sc., M.Sc. and Doctoral Degrees in electrical engineering from the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. He has worked in the Electrical Engineering Department of UFMG since 2009 and is currently an Associate Professor. He is also an Associate Researcher with the Lightning Research Center (LRC). He is author or co-author of more than 200 scientific publications in reviewed journals and conferences. His research interests include lightning performance of transmission lines, lightning, lightning interaction with power systems, computational electromagnetics, and high voltage engineering. He has participated in several CIGRE international Working Groups related to lightning performance of transmission lines and electromagnetic computation modelling (WG C4.23, C4.37, C4.66, C4.73) and is currently Secretary of JWG B2/C4.76 (Lightning & Grounding Considerations for Overhead Line Rebuilding and Refurbishing Projects AC and DC). He is also a senior member of IEEE.

Silvia Sincic

HOPS, Croatia

Topic still being finalized / Tema ainda por definir / Tema aún por definir

Bio coming soon.

Gobi Kannan Supramaniam

Primary Solution Expertise,Grid Division, TNB, Malaysia

Topic still being finalized / Tema ainda por definir / Tema aún por definir

Mr. Kannan holds a Bachelors of Electrical Engineering and a Masters of Power Engineering and is responsible for new technology assessment, diagnostics, and equipment performance improvement for the transformer/reactor unit at TNB. A Registered Professional Engineer and an ASEAN Registered Electrical Engineer with TNB’s Grid Division, he is also a CIGRE A2 Working Group member representing the Malaysia National Committee. He is currently in charge of design, assessment, consultation, failure analysis, and specification development as a product expert

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Diego Mauricio Tauta Rúa

Team Leader, Studies & Technology Mgt. Empresas Públicas de Medellín (EPM), Colombia

Predicted vs. Observed: Lightning Performance of Overhead Transmission Lines (ENG)

Desempenho previsto versus observado de linhas de transmissão aéreas sob ação de raios

Predicción vs. Observación: Comportamiento de las líneas de transmisión aéreas ante rayos

Mr. Tauta Rua is an electrical engineer (National University of Colombia), he has a master's degree in electrical engineering (Universidad de los Andes) and a master's degree in technological innovation management (ITM). He has more than 16 years of experience in the different stages of the life cycle of energy transmission and distribution infrastructure, 9 years of undergraduate and postgraduate teaching experience in topics associated with energy transmission networks, 7 years of experience in technological innovation sector and is the author of technical articles on topics associated with the T&D sector (IEEE, CIGRÉ, T&D World, CIER, CIDET).

Kostas Velitsikakis

Grid Strategist/Specialist, TenneT TSO, Netherlands

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Mr. Velitsikakis received his M.Sc. in High Voltage Engineering from the Technical University of Delft in 2013 and works as senior expert in the field of Insulation Coordination and Electromagnetic Transient (EMT) studies for HV and EHV transmission systems. Currently, he is Secretary of the CIGRÉ Working Groups C4.46 " Evaluation of Temporary Overvoltages in Power Systems due to Low Order Harmonic Resonances" and B1/C4.69 "Insulation Coordination of HVAC Cables".

Silvério Visacro

Full Professor, Electrical Eng. Dept., Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil

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Prof. Visacro is an international expert in lightning, grounding and lightning performance of transmission lines. As a researcher, he has contributed to measurement/detection of lightning parameters as well as to experimental tests and modelling of lightning response to grounding electrodes, including methodologies to measure tower-footing impedance/resistance. As an international consultant, he has extensive experience addressing issues related to grounding and lightning protection/performance of power utility transmission lines and wind farms. He is an IEEE Fellow. recipient of IEEE Kanda and Karl Berg Awards in recognition of his contributions to these fields, and also active as Convener and representative in CIGRE WGs.

Dijana Vrsaljko

Lead Materials Researcher, KONCAR Electrical Engineering Institute, Croatia

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Dr. Vrsaljko received her M.Sc. and Ph.D. Degrees from the University of Zagreb's Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology. She joined KONCAR Electrical Engineering Institute in 2002 with her main areas of expertise being research, identification and characterization of different materials (insulating liquids, organic/inorganic coatings, polymers, metals, composites), research of material degradation and compatibility phenomena, testing of electrotechnical materials for different applications (transformers, cables, insulators), testing and diagnostics of transformer oil/paper insulation system and oil corrosivity. She has published over 30 articles in journals and conference proceedings related to this field and is active in CIGRE: Chair of National CIGRE SC D1, Member of International CIGRE SC D1, Secretary of CIGRE WG D1-76 / Leader of TF 01 and member of WG A2.64.

Dan Windmar

Head, Transmission Line Technology, Svenska kraftnät, Sweden

Topic still being finalized / Tema ainda por definir / Tema aún por definir

Dr. Windmar received a Ph.D. degree in high voltage engineering from Uppsala University in Sweden in 1994. 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 from 2009-2022 served as Vice President, High Voltage Technology and Testing at STRI. He has been working for Svenska Kraftnät, the Swedish TSO since 2022.

Mohd Zainal Abidin Ab Kadir

Professor, Advanced Lightning Research, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Malaysia

Topic still being finalized / Tema ainda por definir / Tema aún por definir

Prof. Kadir received his BEng and PhD from Universiti Putra Malaysia and University of Manchester, respectively. He is a Fellow of Academy of Sciences Malaysia and Fellow of the IET as well as an IEEE Power & Energy Society Distinguished Lecturer in lightning and high voltage engineering. He has authored or co-authored over 400 journals and conference papers. His research interests include high voltage engineering, lightning protection, electromagnetic compatibility, power system transients and renewable energy. Currently, he is Chairman of the NMC of IEC TC 81 (Lightning Protection) and Local Convener of CIGRE Malaysia C4 on System Technical Performance.

Raouf Znaidi

Consultant, T&D Consulting, Tunisia

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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.