

conference reports

Western Power Delivery Automation

Spokane,
Washington, USA
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IEEE T&D Conference 2008

Chicago,
Illinois, USA
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Texas A&M Conference for Protective Relay Engineers

College Station,
Texas, USA
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The 9th International Conference-Development in PS Protection

Glasgow, UK
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PAC conferences around the world

Protection, Automation and Control conferences around the world provide forums for discussions and exchanging ideas that help the participants resolve the challenges that our industry faces today.

DistribuTECH 2008

Tampa,
Florida, USA
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2008 Power System Conference

Clemson,
South Carolina,
USA
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DistribuTECH 2008 held in Tampa, Florida

The focus of the conference was new technologies and their impact on the future of the industry.



THE 18TH DISTRIBUTECH CONFERENCE & Exhibition was held from January 22 to January 24, 2008 at the Tampa Convention Center in Tampa, Florida. It is one of the key events in North America that gives the opportunity to many electric power system specialists to learn about the latest trends in technology and exchange ideas about the future of our industry.

The areas covered by the event include automation and control systems, information technology, transmission and distribution

engineering, power delivery equipment and water utility technology.

DicribuTECH was attended by more than four thousand specialists from around the world. They visited and discussed the latest technology with approximately three hundred exhibitors, representing more than fifty product groups and more than twenty unique services.

The conference was preceded by the Utility University that included full and half-day tutorials on subjects of great importance to the industry.

Industry leading manufacturers participated in the exhibition

The full day tutorials of interest to the PAC community covered:

- Cost-effective distribution reliability improvement
- Distribution automation – strategies for success
- Substation automation projects: design issues, alternative approaches & cyber security considerations
- Substation protection, controls & communications in the new century
- Cyber security risk management
- Using the IEC 61850 standard for communication networks and systems in substations

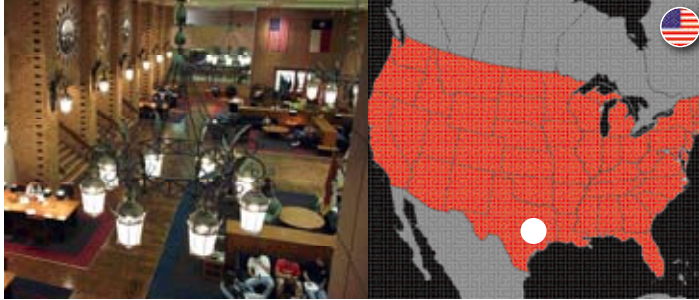
The conference started with a keynote session that included presentations by Spencer Abraham, the tenth Secretary of Energy in United States history, Don Cortez - Division Vice President of Regulated Operations Technology for CenterPoint Energy, the nation's third largest combined electricity and natural gas delivery company and Jeff Sterba - Chairman, President and CEO of PNM Resources.

The conference papers were presented over three days in six tracks, four of which included subjects related to PAC. The substation automation track had sessions covering utilities experiences in substation automation, IEC61850

The Tampa Convention Center- was the conference venue in Florida



Texas A&M Protective Relay Conference, USA



THE TEXAS A&M 61ST ANNUAL Conference for Protective Relay Engineers was held from 31 March to 3 April 2008 at College Station, Texas. The conference was hosted by Texas A&M University. As Prof. B. Don Russell, Chair of the conference said in his Welcome address "...the conference has provided the best available information on protective relay applications and technology. With the changes that have occurred in the electric power industry and with the business emphasis on efficiency and cost savings, the relay conference is even more important than ever."

Two pre-conference events were offered to the participants:

- A presentation on the new "Guide for Protective Relaying Application to Distribution Lines" produced by a working group in the IEEE Power Systems Relaying Committee.
- Presentation on Ethics in Engineering Practice.

■ Manufacturers seminars discussing latest advancements in protection technology were also held at the College Station Hilton before the start of the conference.

The papers were presented in several general sessions and tracks:

- Power Engineering Track
- Industrial Track
- Communications Track
- Real World Experience

Three Break-Out Sessions discussed Phasor applications, Commissioning and testing of relays and Distance element challenge.

The papers presented during the different sessions triggered interesting discussions. This was to a great extent due to the practical focus of the presentations.

Demonstrations of the latest technology and discussions of their principles and applications help the participants improve their knowledge in the field of protection and control. ■



The conference was hosted by Texas A&M University

Developments in Power System Protection 2008

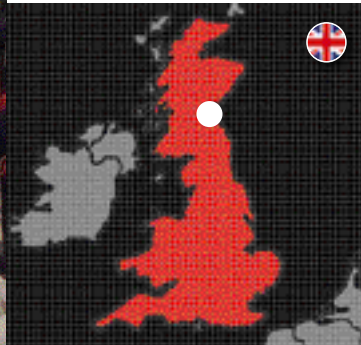
The success of the conference shows that at this time of rapidly changing technology, a period of four or even three years between the conferences is too long.

THE 9TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on Developments in Power System Protection was held from 17 - 20 March 2008 in Glasgow, Scotland, UK. This is the largest specialized protection conference in Europe that is held at three or four years intervals at different locations.

The conference venue was the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Glasgow. This is Scotland's largest city with a population of 600,000. It is the commercial capital of Scotland and one of Europe's top 20 financial centers. The hotel overlooks the River Clyde and is located next to the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC) and opposite the Glasgow Science Centre.

The attendees enjoyed not only their time together, but also an art collection of international significance which includes works by Rembrandt, Botticelli, Van Gogh and Lippi.

The conference was held in Glasgow, Scotland, UK



Glasgow is the largest city in Scotland

A one day tutorial on IEC 61850 and its application to protection systems was presented by some of the leading industry experts with the idea to improve the attendees understanding of the standard and help them in its successful implementation in different projects.

The conference started with two keynote addresses:

Trends in Protection and Substation Automation Systems and Feed-backs from CIGRE activities was delivered by Ivan de Mesmaeker, Chairman of Study Committee B5 of CIGRE. He addressed the main important issues regarding protection and substation automation systems:

the possible level of integration, the standardization aspects and the impact of IEC 61850, the information technology and the overall system protection scheme.

The second keynote speaker was Javier Amantegui, Protection Manager of Iberdrola and talked about the challenges and opportunities faced by utilities using modern protection and control systems.

The papers selected by the conference organizing committee ranged from research concepts and ideas to technical issues and industrial applications.

The papers belonged to the following main categories:

- Relay design and protection

principles

- Impact of utility changes on protection
- Functional integration of protection and control

The papers were presented in three forms:

- Oral presentation sessions
- Short presentations sessions
- Poster sessions

A dedicated exhibition ran in parallel to the DPSP 2008 conference, covering a range of products and services.

The Conference Dinner was held at the prestigious Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, one of Scotland's most popular tourist attractions. ■



The conference was held at the Crowne Plaza hotel next to the SECC

