

## WELCOME TO THE CIGRE GRID OF THE FUTURE CONFERENCE USA

Dear delegate,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 2019 CIGRE Grid of the Future conference in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. It is very true to state that the “future is not what it used to be”. A testimony to this statement is the success of the annual GOTF conference. Every year new aspects are discussed and challenges raised.

This conference exposes the delegates to various opportunities and events such as tutorials, panel discussions, lunchtime addresses and paper sessions. In addition, the Next Generation Network, NGN, and the Women in Engineering, WIE, sections in CIGRE, are holding social and technical events to enhance knowledge transfer and networking.

The panel sessions cover renewable integration and digitalization, which is becoming more challenging and pertinent every year. The tutorials cover smart and sustainable grids, as well as planning for the future grid. The advent of large-scale generation and storage at the medium and low voltage levels are blurring the technical boundaries between the previous Transmission and Distribution entities. CIGRE has embraced this fact and is indeed an “end to end” association covering all voltage levels from Low to Ultra High Voltage.

CIGRE has once again partnered with EPRI for this event which indicates how the two organizations complement each other. This relationship brings cutting edge research together with practical experience and implementation delivering the best value to members.

As you no doubt realize, a CIGRE conference such as this offers far more for delegates than the average conference presenting papers. With the CIGRE experts attending the conference, be assured that there is someone that has solved the problems you have, is working on the problem, or is aware of others working on the problem. I would urge you as delegates to engage with fellow CIGRE colleagues and obtain the maximum benefit from the conference.

I wish you a very successful and fruitful time.



Dr. ROB STEPHEN

PRESIDENT CIGRE

GM (Master Specialist) Eskom

