

CIGRE NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY: MATT GARDNER
CIGRE USNC President

I recently returned from the 2026 CIGRE Paris Session energized by what I witnessed and optimistic about the future of our industry! Every two years, Paris becomes the center of gravity for the global power community. Engineers, researchers, utility executives, manufacturers, regulators, and policymakers gather to exchange knowledge and address the challenges that will shape our industry for decades to come.

This year's conversations were candid, substantive, and forward-looking. They also reinforced an increasingly clear reality: our industry has entered one of the most consequential periods in its history.

The 2026 Paris Session was especially significant because it was the **largest gathering in CIGRE's history, attracting approximately 5,500+ delegates and 15,000+ power industry participants from around the world**. Its scale demonstrated that, despite differences in geography, regulation, market structure, and resource mix, the challenges facing our industry are increasingly shared. Across technical sessions, workshops, Study Committee meetings, exhibitions, executive forums, and informal conversations, leaders from around the world exchanged ideas and advanced practical solutions for the future of electricity.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The United States was exceptionally well represented, with more than **357 U.S. delegates** participating in technical discussions, leadership forums, and committee activities. Their engagement reflected the strength of the U.S. National Committee and the important contributions that U.S. experts continue to make throughout the global CIGRE community.

One of the highlights of the week for me personally was moderating the U.S. National Committee executive leadership panel, **“The Electric Grid at an Inflection Point: Leadership Perspectives on Reliability, Growth, and Transformation.”** The panel brought together an outstanding group of industry leaders:

- Vince Sorgi, President and CEO, PPL Corporation
- Arshad Mansoor, President and CEO, EPRI
- Stan Connally, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Southern Company
- Mark Lauby, NERC Fellow and Chief Engineer

Together, they explored the intersection of reliability, load growth, infrastructure investment, resilience, workforce readiness, and technological change. The discussion went beyond describing the challenges before us. It focused on the leadership decisions, technical priorities, and industry capabilities that will determine whether we successfully navigate the decade ahead.





PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The United States was also well represented in the prestigious CIGRE CEO Forum by **Ed Baine, Executive Vice President, Utility Operations and President, Dominion Energy Virginia**. Ed's presentation, **"Serving Growth Through One Grid: A Practical Regulatory Framework for Connection, Capacity, Cost Allocation and Reliability,"** addressed one of the defining challenges facing our industry: how to serve unprecedented growth while maintaining reliability, affordability, and fairness for customers.

Drawing upon Dominion Energy's experience serving the world's largest data center market, Ed emphasized that rapid electrification is no longer a future scenario. It is an operating reality. His central message was that successful economic growth and energy transformation require regulatory frameworks that provide clear investment signals and enable timely, prudent infrastructure development across the entire power system. His remarks reinforced the importance of CIGRE's One Grid concept and the need to approach generation, transmission, distribution, customers, and emerging technologies as parts of an increasingly interconnected system.



Throughout the week, I was reminded of one of CIGRE's greatest strengths. We bring together experts with different experiences, perspectives, and operating environments while remaining grounded in technical rigor and practical problem-solving. As our systems become more interconnected and the challenges more complex, the ability to learn across organizational and national boundaries becomes even more valuable.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



The U.S. National Committee continues to grow and strengthen. Today, we have approximately **1,181 individual members and 82 collective members**, representing utilities, manufacturers, consultants, universities, independent system operators, and research organizations across the country. Watch out Brazil! We're getting close to #1, if we haven't gotten there already! 😊

Every new member adds to our collective expertise and strengthens our ability to contribute to CIGRE's global knowledge and experience base – which pays direct dividends to you and your organization! Thank you to our members, volunteers, technical leaders, and sponsors for your continued engagement and commitment to advancing our profession. Our growth reflects not only the relevance of CIGRE's mission, but also the willingness of our members to contribute their time, knowledge, and experience for the benefit of the broader industry – all while extracting practical value that we all can use – today!

While Paris may now be behind us, there is no time to slow down.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Our next major milestone is the [2026 Grid of the Future Symposium](#), hosted by Dominion Energy in Richmond, Virginia, from **October 26 through 29, 2026**. This year's program is shaping up to be one of our strongest yet. The symposium will bring together industry executives, technical experts, researchers, and emerging professionals to examine the technologies, strategies, and leadership decisions that will shape tomorrow's electric grid. There's too much to be excited about! In addition to the first ever Executive Roundtable on Monday, the program is anchored by incredible panel sessions, world-class paper sessions, and our first ever poster session!

The agenda addresses many of the same issues that were at the center of the Paris Session, including reliability, grid modernization, rapid load growth, data centers, artificial intelligence, digitalization, resilience, distributed energy resources, and workforce development. It will also provide an important forum for moving from broad industry challenges to practical ideas, technical insights, and solutions that participants can apply within their own organizations.

If you have not yet registered, I strongly encourage you to do so. Whether you are a long-time CIGRE participant or attending for the first time, the Grid of the Future Symposium offers an exceptional opportunity to learn, build relationships, and engage directly with leaders from across the electric power sector. For those who were unable to attend the Paris Session, it will also provide an opportunity to participate in many of the conversations shaping the future of our industry.

GOTF - ATTENDEE REGISTRATION

I also encourage organizations seeking to increase their visibility and support the industry's technical future to consider becoming a symposium sponsor. Sponsorships help us deliver a world-class technical program while supporting important U.S. National Committee initiatives, including the Next Generation Network, Women in Energy, technical programming, professional development, and industry outreach. Please consider sponsoring this year's Grid of the Future symposium. For more information on how to sponsor contact me or [Sharon Loe](#).



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Sponsorship opportunities remain available, and I hope many of you will consider participating. Your support represents more than an investment in a symposium. It advances the technical exchange, professional development, and industry collaboration that have defined CIGRE for more than a century.

GOTF - SPONSOR REGISTRATION

As we move into the final quarter of 2026, I remain optimistic about the future of CIGRE and our industry. The challenges before us are significant, but so are the opportunities. The world increasingly depends on electricity that is reliable, resilient, affordable, and increasingly clean. Meeting those expectations will require innovation, collaboration, technical excellence, and committed leadership.

The conversations in Paris reinforced something I have long believed: technology will continue to evolve, and our operating environment will become more complex, but meaningful progress ultimately depends on people coming together to share knowledge, challenge assumptions, and develop solutions. That collaborative spirit remains one of CIGRE's defining strengths and one of the principal reasons I am confident about what lies ahead.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support of the U.S. National Committee. I look forward to seeing many of you in Richmond this October as we continue our shared work of shaping the future of the electric power industry.

Matt Gardner

CIGRE USNC President

Matthew.Gardner@dominionenergy.com

2026 Highlights To Date

1. 2026 Grid of the Future Symposium, October 26-29, 2026, Richmond, Virginia, USA

Join us in Richmond, Virginia on October 26-29, 2026 for the 2026 GRID OF THE FUTURE SYMPOSIUM. The Technical Program will consist of the following:

- 20 Paper Sessions with 80 papers presented
- Monday evening Poster Session with up to 80 additional papers presented
- 5 Panel Sessions
- 2 Tutorials
 - Reframing IBR Fault Response: The End of Protection by Modeling and a Return to First Principles
 - Potential Roles of Energy Storage in Electric Power Systems
- 1 Tour to the Dominion Energy's High Voltage Laboratory and Mobile Equipment Facility
- Plus more
- Full technical program to be released soon at [GOTF Program-At-A-Glance](#)
- [Register To Attend GOTF!](#)

2. Study Committee Working Groups

- Over 30 new CIGRE WGs launched so far in 2026 (thru early August)
- Over 100 US Subject Matter Experts Nominated for these WG's launched in 2026 plus nominations for 4 WGs launched late in 2025
 - ~ 40 Regular Members
 - ~ 65 Additional Members
 - 31 Nominations were Next Generation Network (NGN) and 11 were Women in Energy (WIE)
- We are encouraging the expanded use of Mirror WGs of US Expert Advisors supporting the WG US Regular Members
- [List of CIGRE Active WGs](#)
- WG Nomination Process:
 - When a new Working Group has been approved by the CIGRE Technical Council, an email notification will be sent to each National Committee from the Paris Executive Office, and our USNC team will send out an email to our US Membership (Individual and Collective) email list.
 - If you are interested in participating in one or more of the working groups, please send your name, email address, CIGRE Member number, confirmation that your annual dues are paid, and a current CV to John Paserba at j.paserba@ieee.org
 - Self-nominations are allowed and encouraged
 - Working group members should have their company support and be current CIGRE members with their current dues paid

2026 Highlights To Date

3. Reminder - All CIGRE Publication Types

- Reference Papers
- ELECTRA (bimonthly digital magazine)
- CIGRE Science & Engineering Journal [CSE] (published three times per year)
- [Green Books](#)
- Papers and Proceedings
- Technical Brochures (*most recent listed on [page 18](#)*)
- [E-CIGRE](#) [home to CIGRE's resource of 12,000+ technical publications]



GRID OF THE FUTURE
October 26-29 | Richmond, Virginia

Hosted By:



**Dominion
Energy®**

**REGISTRATION FOR THE 2026
GRID OF THE FUTURE SYMPOSIUM
IS NOW OPEN!**

REGISTER HERE!

Hello from the US NGN!

NGN at the Paris Session

It was great to connect with everyone in Paris! Congratulations to Zefan Tang and Rouyan Fan for representing the USNC at CIGRE Paris at the NGN Showcase.



NGN at the 2026 Grid of the Future Symposium

Our team is working and excited for the Next Generation Network events at the 2026 Grid of the Future Symposium! Registration is now open – see below for a list of our events.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Monday 10/26 – Next Generation Network Executive Leadership Roundtable

- Limited seats, express interest with your Grid of the Future Registration.

Next Generation Network
Executive Leadership Roundtable
Monday, October 26 | 1 - 5pm



Join us for an interactive, case study-based discussion on:

- ✓ **Evolving Leadership**
- ✓ **Strategic Decision-Making**
- ✓ **The Future of the Power System**

Seats are limited - apply as part of your Grid of the Future registration today!

 Mandy Olson Vice President of Engineering, Burns & McDonnell	 Cedric Green Senior Vice President - Generation, Dominion Energy Virginia
 Tricia Breeger President & CEO, Mitsubishi Electric Power Products, Inc.	 Bob Carritte Senior Strategic Leadership Role, MPR Associates, Inc.
 Mark Lauby Senior Vice President & Chief Engineer, NERC	 Shay Bahramirad Vice President, Electric Engineering, Asset Management, Electric Risk & Compliance, Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E)
 David Whitehead President, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories	 Mark McGranaghan Fellow, EPRI

 2026 CIGRE Grid of the Future | Richmond, VA

Tuesday 10/27 – NGN Paper Competition

- Top 5 finalists will present for the chance to win a trip to CIGRE Paris!

Tuesday 10/27 – CIGRE Teens Paper Competition [Cigre Pre-College Network (PCN)]

- Top 4 finalists will present!

Wednesday 10/28 – NGN Breakfast

- Join us for a breakfast of networking and a presentation by Mark McVey!

Wednesday 10/28 – NGN Social (Hosted by Burns & McDonnell & WSP)

- Network with young professionals at this year's dinner! This event is invitation only, please express interest with your Grid of the Future registration.



Looking forward to connecting in October at GOTF!

If you are interested in getting involved with any of these activities or have fresh ideas to share, please do not hesitate to reach out to [Logan Rolles](#).

Be a part of the next generation of CIGRE experts!



CIGRE USNC Women in Energy: Celebrating Leadership and Building Connections

It has been an exciting season for CIGRE Women in Energy (WiE), with much to celebrate following the 2026 CIGRE Paris Session, and several opportunities ahead for the CIGRE USNC community to connect, learn and engage.

Celebrating Women in Energy at the CIGRE Paris Session

The 2026 CIGRE Paris Session brought together more than 15,000 attendees from across the global power and energy community. Among the highlights was the recognition of six outstanding women with the **CIGRE Women in Energy (WiE) Award**, which honors active contributions to CIGRE activities and the promotion of Women in Energy at both the national and global levels.

This year's honorees were **Laurie-Anne Clement of France; Aimee Intac-Leung of Canada; Elizabeth (Beth) LaRose of the United States; Ajla Merzic of Bosnia & Herzegovina; Rebecca Ostash of Canada; and Carla Damasceno Peixoto of Brazil.**



The CIGRE USNC WiE community is especially pleased to celebrate Beth LaRose and Aimee Intac-Leung on receiving this international recognition. Beth represented the United States among this year's award recipients, while Aimee, representing Canada, is an active participant in CIGRE USNC WiE Executive Committee. Their recognition is particularly meaningful to our community and reflects the collaborative spirit that extends across CIGRE's national committees.

The Paris Session also offered an opportunity to recognize the growing impact and visibility of women throughout CIGRE. In addition to the six WiE Award recipients, women were recognized across seven other CIGRE award categories, a meaningful reflection of the increasingly important role women are playing throughout the organization and the global power sector.

Upcoming Webinar: Building the Skills to Influence Without Authority

That focus on leadership and professional growth continues this month as **CIGRE USNC Women in Energy and the Next Generation Network (NGN)** come together to present a special webinar, **“Influencing Without Power: Three Skills That Change Careers,”** on **Wednesday, September 16, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. CDT / 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. EDT.**



The webinar will feature **Nancy Martin**, founder of Nancy R. Martin Consulting and a former General Electric executive with 35 years of experience spanning engineering leadership, technical development and executive education.

Nancy will explore three practical capabilities that can make a difference throughout a career: **influencing decisions through data and storytelling, building a powerful professional network, and projecting confidence.** Attendees will gain practical approaches for combining credible data with compelling stories, creating connections that expand opportunity, and communicating with greater confidence and executive presence.

This joint WiE/NGN program is open to those interested in strengthening their ability to lead and influence, whether or not they hold formal authority.

WEBINAR REGISTRATION

Join WiE at Grid of the Future 2026

Looking further ahead, CIGRE USNC WiE will sponsor several opportunities for learning and connection during the **2026 Grid of the Future Symposium, October 26 to 29 in Richmond, Virginia.** Event registration is required to participate.

On **Tuesday, October 27**, all event attendees are invited to begin the day at the **WiE Breakfast**, featuring **Wendy T. Wellener, Senior Vice President, Administrative Services at Dominion Energy.** Drawing on her leadership experience and distinctive career journey, Wendy will share perspectives in what promises to be an engaging conversation. WiE extends special thanks to **Mitsubishi Electric Power Products, Inc.** for sponsoring the event.



WOMEN IN ENERGY (WiE) CORNER

BY: KATE GRAVES

CIGRE USNC Women in Energy Committee Member

Later that day, women attending the symposium are invited to participate in the **WiE Speed Networking Lunch**, led by **Shandi Ezraseneh, CIGRE USNC WiE Vice-Chair of Events and Clean Energy Project Lead at Con Edison**. Designed to help participants build connections, exchange knowledge and strengthen mentorship pathways within the industry, the lunch requires pre-registration.

On **Wednesday, October 28**, WiE will turn its attention to the future of the power system with the panel **“Technology We Need to Make It to 2050.”** Panelists will include **Jacki Vitiello, Dominion Energy; Malahat Herfeh, Danovo Energy Solutions; Tricia Breeger, Mitsubishi Electric Power Products, Inc.; and Fei Ding, National Laboratory of the Rockies**. The discussion will be moderated by **Mallory Mannoni, CIGRE USNC WiE Vice-Chair and Project Delivery Manager at 1898 & Co.**

CIGRE USNC WiE will also continue its commitment to inspiring the next generation through a special outreach activity with local Girl Scouts during Grid of the Future. The session will provide an opportunity for CIGRE US WiE members to engage with girls interested in STEM and introduce them to the possibilities of careers in the power and energy industry. The activity reflects an important part of WiE’s mission: creating connections and opportunities not only for women already working in the industry, but also for the young people who may become its future engineers, innovators and leaders. Due to the nature of the event, it is only open to CIGRE USNC WiE members.

Together, these activities reflect what CIGRE Women in Energy is all about: **recognizing achievement, creating meaningful connections, developing future leaders and ensuring that diverse voices help shape the future of the power industry.**

We hope to see members of the CIGRE USNC community at the September webinar and in Richmond this October.

GOTF - ATTENDEE REGISTRATION

Interested in becoming more involved with CIGRE USNC Women in Energy? Please contact [Mallory Mannoni](#) or [Katherine Bravin](#) to learn more.

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION NETWORK (NGN) FORUM AT THE 2026 PARIS SESSION



When I was Member and Chair of the United States Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory Committee serving four Presidential Administrations, I became known as the What's Missing guy. I heard enough talk about solar, wind, battery storage, and electric vehicles but not much else. Well, I brought subjects such as hydrogen, nuclear, the next generation Energy Management System, and the inflection point coming with extraordinary electricity demand due to data centers and other systems switching to electricity due to better emissions reduction in the power sector.

I believe engineers can solve any problem for societal needs as transparency will yield

solutions. I'm a licensed professional engineer in the United States. I respond as an engineer to the credo for the common good advancing societal benefits. Electricity is foundational and we are in an exciting energy transition period.

I have published a paper in June 2024 on "What's Missing For the Energy Transition?" derived from my 12-year tenure at the US Department of Energy. It was published in Power Systems Technology [Issue 37]. Today, electric demand exceeds expectations, capacity markets are trying to incent supply, infrastructure is challenged at all levels, and distribution needs to be transformed. All roads challenge affordability.

Upon mentioning the issue of affordability at a conference, I was asked if I saw today's companies and engineers being risk averse and too cost conscious with innovation. I cautioned that if the Wright Brothers worried about risk and cost, airplanes would have been delayed unnecessarily. Companies and engineers need to develop and nurture innovation then address risk and costs. But we must eventually address affordability.

I believe engineers can solve any problem before them. Do you see the affordability problem? I challenge you to add that to your list of issues to solve. This goes well beyond markets. This is fundamental to everything we do and the poorest among us need to be able to afford life-giving electricity.

I see the need for more resources beyond solar and wind. I see battery storage and other forms as highly useful for intermittent resources, but I also see battery chemistries not sustainable, including electric vehicles. Green hydrogen is costly and nuclear is a challenge. Can we solve these problems and make them affordable? We are counting on you to solve these problems and not just figure out how to manage the status quo.

I know long speeches, panel sessions and presentations can numb you. If you only take away one thing from my talk today, it is to address affordability in your innovations. We are counting on you. You are our future and it is imperative that you see the key factor of affordability in all that you do for your profession. Do this for the common good and for the poorest among us. Do not rely on politicians to subsidize innovations. Build it in.

I mentioned these are exciting times and I want to share with you the benefits of CIGRE in these times. CIGRE is your seat at the global table for your professional development and for your company. CIGRE is the practical solution for your career and our One Grid.

CIGRE marketing efforts, including transformation of our communications and membership experience, started in 2017. We have consistent marketing resources, a digital platform advancing eCIGRE for our power systems knowledge sharing, our Technical Brochures, Green Books, ELECTRA, CSE and our newsletters. Our digital platform provides opportunity to translate documents in your native language as well.

CIGRE cash reserves will exceed 8M euros at the end of 2026. Our low point was the pandemic. We cancelled the 2020 Session and held a Virtual Centennial Session in 2021 that was expensive but necessary. Had we not had a successful 2022 Session, we would have had little cash reserves to endure any further risks or seed the CIGRE Fund. Fortunately, the digital platform we developed kept us relevant during the pandemic, and our success allowed the expanded mission with our CIGRE Innovation & Education Endowment Fund. Our cash reserves have also allowed us to stay below inflation on fees lower than peer global organizations.

Our website, CIGRE.org has increased unique user visitors over six times, from about 60,000/year when we started in 2017 to well over 370,000/year. The latest version of CIGRE.org planned for 2027 will leverage this excellent growth with over 500,000/year.

CIGRE membership in 2017 was just over 15,000 to now over 23,000 expected at the end of 2026. We will grow to 40,000 with 75 NCs shortly, and the CIGRE Fund will grow universities and students naturally adding to our growth.

Individuals today are exposed to about 10,000 messages per day, and to gain traction with our mission we need consistency and relevance over the noise you see on your smartphones. The CIGRE brand has value. CIGRE's value is our technical foundation certainly, but the fast-paced world will ignore Maxwell's equations. They will not ignore our approach to One Grid nor our efforts with our new CIGRE Fund. Now add affordability to your innovations.

We are at a time like no other. You can say today in your career with CIGRE, "We got this," "The exciting future of electricity is now," and "CIGRE is the answer." We are definitely in the best of times in our space, and we are counting on you. You got this.

The future starts now

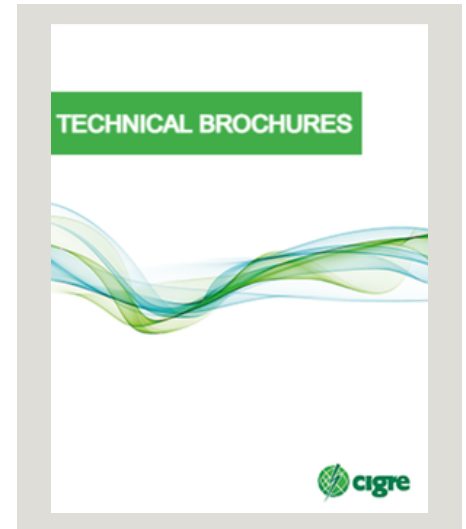
CIGRE is investing in innovation and expertise for the future of power systems by introducing the **CIGRE Innovation & Education Fund**, a worldwide programme providing grants for research, scholarships, and educational initiatives for the energy transition, and more.



PUBLICATIONS

The latest Technical Brochures are now available on e-cigre:

- **TB 988:** Surge and Extended Overvoltage Evaluation of HVDC Cable Systems for Testing
- **TB 989:** Interdependence and Security of Cyber-Physical Power System (CPPS)
- **TB 990:** Implementation of Security Operations Centers (SOC) in the Electric Power Industry as Part of the Situational Awareness System
- **TB 991:** Assessment, Prevention and Mitigation of Safety Risk in Cable Systems
- **TB 992:** Application Guide for the Insulation Coordination of Voltage Source Converter HVDC (VSC HVDC) Stations
- **TB 993:** User Guide for Non-SF6 Gases and Gas Mixtures in Substations
- **TB 994:** Enhancing QA/QC Procedures for HV and EHV Cable Systems
- **TB 995:** Digital Twins for Power Transformers - Concept and Future Perspectives
- **TB 996:** Application of 5G Technology to Smart Grids
- **TB 997:** Neutral Earthing Method Selection and Earth Fault Handling for Substations in the Distribution Networks
- **TB 998:** Further Investigations on a DC Tracking & Erosion Test
- **TB 999:** Lifelong Supervision and Management of Substations by Use of Sensors, Mobile Devices, Information and Communication Technologies
- **TB 1,000:** Application of 3D RTechnologies in Substation Engineering Works



There are over 980 technical brochures available on e-cigre.org at no charge for CIGRE members. Nearly 40 are added every year.

READ ON eCIGRE

ELECTRA CIGRE's Digital Magazine

ELECTRA August 2026

Featured in this edition:

LIFE OF THE ASSOCIATION

- CIGRE Annual Report 2025
- CIGRE Energy Forum 2026 - AltaLink Brings Global Energy Leaders to Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- In Memoriam - Mircea Eremia

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

- The Trust Ceiling: What Stakeholder Engagement Programs Miss

ONE GRID

- Virtual Power Plants (VPP)...Defining the Future Operations of Distribution Networks?



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Samta Balpande • Maggie Besharati • Gary Boerger • Scott Brasfield • James Brennan • Jerry Brown
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