

8th Edition | May 19-20, 2026 | Chicago

Grid Modernization & Resiliency Summit

Positioning the grid for a new era of growth, service and flexibility

The **8th Grid Modernization & Resiliency Summit 2026** is a focused, networking-centric forum dedicated to the engineering, operational, and regulatory requirements of a rapidly evolving power system. The Summit brings together executives from utilities, system operators, national labs, and solution providers to address the practical challenges of upgrading North America's distribution and transmission infrastructure.

As electrification accelerates, DER penetration increases, and extreme-weather events intensify, utilities face unprecedented system complexity and the need to modernize their networks. Indeed, over 70% of U.S. transmission lines are more than 25 years old -- nearing the end of their typical 50-to-80-year lifecycle -- and almost 70% of large power transformers in the U.S. are over 25 years old, increasing vulnerability to failure. This Summit is designed to address this situation by focusing on applied solutions, implementation strategies, and technology deployments for improving grid reliability, service flexibility, stability and operational resilience.

Topics to be Addressed Include:

Grid Reliability & Resilience

Hardening infrastructure, improving outage performance, and preparing for extreme weather.

Distribution System Modernization

ADMS, automation, and upgraded protection schemes for a more flexible and observable grid.

DER & Inverter-Based Resource Integration

Managing high-penetration DERs, VPPs, and EV load impacts on distribution systems.

Emerging Smart Grid Technologies and Strategies

Learning from industry leaders at the cutting edge of innovation and performance.

Microgrids & Local Resilience Systems

Design, control strategies, and operational lessons from campus, community, and industrial microgrids.

Energy Storage Deployment

Storage applications for reliability, stability, and peak management, plus evolving safety and code requirements.

OT System Modernization

Upgrading SCADA, field devices, and operational platforms to support a more adaptive, data-rich, and distributed grid.

Change Drivers & Grid of the Future

Current market trends, requirements, challenges and opportunities facing the grid.

Summit Audience:

- T&D engineering teams
- System planning and reliability engineers
- Grid modernization and capital planning groups
- OT cybersecurity teams
- DER integration and interconnection engineers
- Microgrid and storage project engineers
- Utility operational technology and SCADA teams
- Regulators and technical policy analysts

"Great forum, great group and list of attendees and presenters."

- Hitesh Tanwani, GE Renewable Energy

Organized by



gridmod-summit.com

Speaking Opportunities

The 8th Grid Modernization & Resiliency Summit provides industry practitioners and executives with an authoritative, objective venue in which to discuss opportunities, hurdles and advancements in positioning the grid for a new era of load growth and service flexibility. The Summit includes in-depth business and technical presentations, as well as panel discussions centered around key advances and success strategies to date.

Proposals may be submitted for:

- **Case Studies** (20–30 minutes): Real-world lessons from deployments
- **Technical Presentations** (20–30 minutes): Engineering and operational insights
- **Panel Participation** (45–60 minutes): Topic-specific multi-speaker discussions
- **Pre-Summit Workshops** (half-day in length): Technology or business issues deep-dive
- **Lightning Talks** (7–10 minutes): Fast, focused innovation spotlights

Vendor presentations are welcome but must be non-commercial, technical, and customer-focused.

Individuals who wish to deliver a presentation are invited to submit the following:

1. Name of speaker, title, company, and contact information
2. Presentation (or panel session) title
3. Abstract and objective of presentation or panel session (150 words)
4. Biography and photo of proposed speaker(s)
5. Bullet list of 3-4 Key Learning Points from the presentation

Proposals should be emailed to speak@smartgridobserver.com by **Friday, February 1, 2026**

Who Should Submit

- Investor-owned, municipal, and cooperative utilities
- State regulators, RTO/ISO staff, and policymakers
- Engineering, consulting, and technology firms
- Universities, national labs, and research institutions
- Community resilience leaders and project developers

For further information or to discuss a possible presentation, please [contact us](#).



Previous Attendees Include:

ABB	Environmental Defense Fund	NRG Energy
Accenture Strategy	ESTA International	NRG Evgo
AECOM AES Corporation	Eversource Energy	Oncor Electric Delivery
Alliant Energy	EV Connect	Open Access Technology International
Ameren	Evoke Systems	OpenADR Alliance
American Renewable Energy	G&W Electric	Pacific Northwest National Lab
Argonne National Laboratory	Gehrs Consulting	PJM Interconnection
Avangrid	GenCell	POSCO Research Institute
BC Hydro	Graycor	POWER Engineers
Black & Veatch	Greenlots	PowerRunner
Boice Dunham Group	Grid Deployment Office, U.S. Department of Energy	QualityLogic
Bourntec Solutions	Grid Strategies LLC	Quidnet Energy
BoxPower	GrowthFuel	Renewance
CB&I	Hammond Group, Inc.	Ryn Hamilton Consulting
CEIVA Energy	Hendrix Aerial Cable Systems	S&C Electric Company
Central Hudson Gas & Electric	Hitachi ABB	Sargent & Lundy LLC
Chicago Booth School of Business	ICF International	Scale Energy Solutions
Cisco	ICE Energy	Schneider Electric
ClimateWire/Environment & Energy Publishing, LLC.	Illinois Commerce Commission	Schweitzer Engineering Labs
Commonwealth Edison	Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT)	Sense
Con Edison	INTECH	SMUD
CPS Energy	IPERC	Southern California Edison
Customized Energy Solutions	Joule Assets	Southern Company
DataCapable	Kisensum	Sterling Energy Assets
DataInsights	Korea Polytechnic University	Sunrun
DCPSC	Landis+Gyr	Swift Current Advisors
Deloitte Consulting	Leidos Engineering	Tennessee Valley Authority
Department of Energy and Environment, District of Columbia	LEM USA Inc.	The Blackstone Group, Inc.
DePaul University	Lockheed Martin Energy	The Brattle Group
DNV	Market Strategies International	Union of Concerned Scientists
E9 Insight	Michaels Energy	U.S. Commercial Service - Chicago
Eaton	Microgrid Institute	U.S. Department of Energy
Edison Electric Institute	Mitsubishi Electric	University of Illinois – Chicago
Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)	Modern Grid Solutions	University of Minnesota
Elevate Energy	Midwest Energy News	Utilidata
Elmar	Midwest Energy Research Consortium	UtiliWorks Consulting
eluminocity US Inc.	National Grid	Wartsila
Enbala Power Networks	Natural Resources Defense Council	WeaveGrid
Enchanted Rock	NEMA	WECC
EnergyHub	Nexant	West Monroe Partners
EnergySavvy	NextEnergy	WindyCitySDR
Energyworx	New York State Smart Grid Consortium	WIPRO
EnerNex	Nord Strategy Group	Wood Mackenzie
Enphase Energy	Northern Power	Woolpert Inc.
		Xcel Energy

Sponsorship Packages

- Exclusive positioning as top-level Platinum sponsor (1 available)
 - Tabletop exhibit space
 - 4 complimentary passes
 - Opportunity to organize & chair a panel session, or stand-alone 30-minute speaking slot
 - Opportunity to help shape topic coverage of conference and recommend speaker invitations
 - Special 20% registration discount code for customers, clients and co-workers
 - Top-level logo visibility in on-site signage, on event website and in all marketing communications
 - Top-level logo recognition throughout the Summit, during breaks and session introductions
 - White paper or executive interview published on event website and/or as SGO podcast
 - Attendee list and copy of presentation PDFs
 - Corporate description with link on "Sponsors" page
 - Post-Symposium communication with attendees
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- Tabletop exhibit space
 - 3 complimentary passes
 - Panel speaking or moderator slot
 - Top-level logo visibility in on-site signage, on event website and in all marketing communications
 - Top-level logo recognition throughout the Summit, during breaks and session introductions
 - White paper or executive interview published on event website and/or as SGO podcast
 - Attendee list and copy of presentation PDFs
 - Corporate description with link on "Sponsors" page
 - Post-Symposium communication with attendees
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- Tabletop exhibit space
 - 2 complimentary passes
 - Attendee list and copy of presentation PDFs
 - White paper or executive interview published on event website and/or as SGO podcast
 - Prominent logo visibility in on-site signage, on event website and in all marketing communications
 - Prominent logo visibility throughout the Summit, during breaks and session introductions
 - Corporate description with link on "Sponsors" page
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- 1 complimentary Standard pass
- Attendee list and copy of presentation PDFs
- Prominent logo visibility in on-site signage, on event website and in all marketing communications
- Prominent logo recognition throughout the Summit, during breaks and session introductions
- Corporate description with link on "Sponsors" page

To arrange your participation, contact: Daniel Coran, Program Manager, dcoran@smartgridobserver.com

About the Organizer



The Smart Grid Observer is a weekly e-newsletter serving the global smart energy industry. SGO organizes several conferences each year on topics such as EV charging, V2G, industrial control systems cybersecurity, microgrids, sustainable generation technologies, and grid modernization. For a list of upcoming and recent Forums, visit <https://smartgridobserver.com/events>

Sponsors of Recent SGO Events Include:



Registration

<https://gridmod-summit.com/register>

Registration includes access to all sessions, lunches, coffee breaks, and drink receptions on May 19-20. Includes presentation PDFs and attendee list with contact information.*

Early Bird Standard -- Equipment and software providers, consultants, utilities and services providers \$795.00
Available until April 17, 2026 -- \$995.00 afterwards

Early Bird Non-Profit -- Academic, government, military, students and other non-profits \$595.00
Available until April 17, 2026 -- \$795.00 afterwards .org, .edu, .gov, or .mil email address required

** For those who give permission to have their contact information shared*

Event Venue



Chicago Executive Conference Center 205 W. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois

Located in downtown Chicago's Loop, the Conference Center is steps away from the city's magnificent lakefront with world-renowned Millennium and Grant Parks, marvelous museums, restaurants and retail shopping.

[>> Directions in Google Maps](#)

[>> Nearby Hotels](#)



Sample Feedback from Previous Editions:



The content was well delivered; topics were timely and well curated in terms of who and what was presented. A good mix of speakers and topics

- Gary Brinkworth, Senior Advisor - Innovation & Research, Tennessee Valley Authority

The subjects and the subject matter experts were all highly informative. Very well organized and presented by SGO.

- Eric McDonald, Director - Infrastructure Development, NextEnergy



Great new topics and new information from presentations. Well done!

- Steffen Ziegler, Director - Signal Analysis and AI, IMCORP

The information exchanged here was incredibly useful.

- Melanie Moore, Union of Concerned Scientists



Exceeded expectations - valuable return on time and resources invested. Provided in-depth information on grid mod / renewable energy adoption, implementations, equipment, metrics, lessons learned, market trends, etc. Well represented in terms of utilities, consultants, renewable energy companies, etc. Nice size conference - good ability to meet and learn from others. I came to learn, and most others did as well.

- Nancy Casey, Vew2040



Good speakers and content. Increasingly important topic. Expert dialogues

- Scott Schueter, Slipstream

Extremely effective in exposing the issues across technology, regulatory landscape, and business plans for the grid of the future. I learned a great deal and look forward to more.

- George W. Crabtree, Senior Scientist, Argonne Distinguished Fellow, and Associate Division Director, Argonne National Laboratory