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Call for Abstracts: Contribute to CEATI's 2026 Transmission & Distribution Conference

We are pleased to announce our Call for Abstracts for CEATI's Transmission & Distribution Conference taking place on November 17-18, 2026, in Denver, Colorado. This conference will bring together over 700 utility professionals including leaders focused on utility-led, practical approaches to planning, designing, operating, and sustaining the power delivery system. Sessions will address grid reliability and resilience, lifecycle management, advanced technologies, system operations, safety, vegetation management, and the integration of new resources and loads as utilities respond to electrification and evolving regulatory requirements. Thought leaders and experts from the industry are invited to submit presentation abstracts on the seven themes described below; utility presenters as well as non-utility presenters that partner with utility co-presenters will be given priority during the selection process.

Conference Theme: Preparing You for the Power Delivery System of the Future

This year's conference will feature seven thematic areas; however, final tracks will be shaped by the abstracts submitted. Considering current industry trends, we anticipate strong interest in artificial intelligence and machine learning. Should enough high-quality presentation proposals be received, we may establish a dedicated conference track in this area. Detailed topic descriptions are provided under each theme below.

Transmission Line Design & Lifecycle Management	Distribution Equipment & Advanced Technologies	Grounding & Lightning	Substations: Design & Asset Lifecycle	Vegetation Management & Right-of-Way Resiliency	System Planning, Operations, & Protection	Electrical & Physical Safety

Please submit abstracts **by 5PM ET, 02 April 2026** via: **https://www.ceati.com/call-for-abstract-am**.

NOTE: Vendors, consultants, and utility representatives submitting content proposals are encouraged to focus on real world case studies and incidents. Vendors and consultants are required to **present alongside utility representatives** to ensure relevance and effective Q&A from our predominantly utility-centric audience.

Track Themes

- **Transmission Line Design & Lifecycle Management**
  - Description: This track focuses on utility experience in the engineering, design, effective inspection and maintenance, and lifecycle management of transmission line that support safe and reliable power delivery.
  - Topics:
    - Innovative line design for improving line reliability and availability

- Underground and submarine transmission cable systems
- Transmission cable installation methods and materials
- Underground cable failure case studies and failure analysis
- Advanced line and cable condition monitoring techniques and equipment
- Advanced diagnostic testing techniques for line and cable condition assessment
- Transmission health index methodologies and programs
- Asset performance including asset health monitoring, inspection, maintenance, and lifecycle management strategies
- Transmission system uprating, upgrading and life extension options
- Increasing line ampacity using innovative advanced conductors: case studies
- Dynamic line ratings – plan, design, and implementation strategies
- Designing for reliability, resilience, and extreme events
- Optimization of line cost verse line reliability
- Comparison of various international and national standards, specifications, and design best practices
- With increased power demand, what's the better solution, higher voltage AC or DC transmission systems?

- **Distribution Equipment & Advanced Technologies**
  - Description: This track focuses on utility experience in the planning, design, operation, and lifecycle management of distribution systems in an evolving grid operating environment.
  - Topics:
    - Storm hardening and resilience strategies for distribution systems
    - Distribution planning, system studies, and long-term capacity management
    - Advanced distribution operations, automation, and control technologies including but not limited to ADMS, DERMS, FLISR, etc.
    - Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) integration and meter data use including roadmap and execution to AMI 2.0
    - Operating the distribution grid with high DER penetration and its impacts
    - Power quality, voltage regulation, and disturbance mitigation
    - Advanced monitoring, data analytics, and grid-edge technologies
    - Technologies and strategies to operate on the customer-side of the meter (e.g. control of customer appliances and EV chargers)
    - Strategic undergrounding and underground cable design/diagnostics/renewal
    - Safety considerations in distribution design, operations, and field work
    - Asset performance, inspection, and lifecycle management strategies

- **Grounding & Lightning**

- Description**:** This track focused on grounding and lightning protection design, construction, testing, and maintenance, highlighting strategies, innovations, and standards for effective system grounding.
- Topics:
  - Station grounding and lightning protection design, construction, testing, and maintenance for safety
  - Methods to extend the grounding and lightning protection systems alongside substation expansion
  - Software tools and methodologies for lightning protection, grounding design & risk assessment
  - Field testing methods to assess impedance, potential rise, step/touch voltages, current split
  - Grounding system health indexing, test frequency, mitigation & compliance for maintenance & safety
  - Distribution grounding methods, stray voltage mitigation, neutral isolation devices, DER 3rd harmonic voltages
  - Copper theft prevention, mitigation, online condition monitoring, reducing risk from unsafe conditions
  - Lightning protection/performance, risk assessment, TL surge arrestors application
  - Personal Protective Grounding (PPG) and safe work practices
  - Designing solar, wind, and battery storage grounding
  - Pipeline safety near powerlines: grounding, bonding, and separation distances

- **Stations: Design & Asset Lifecycle**
  - Description: This track focuses on utility experience in the planning, design, operation, inspection, and lifecycle management of stations, including substations and related facilities. While much of the focus is on primary equipment (e.g. transformers), of equal importance is the focus on secondary equipment such as VT/PT, CT, battery back-up systems, etc.). Recently, security of stations has risen in importance.
    - Topics:
      - Station and substation planning, layout, and physical design to accommodate advances in technologies such as drones for routine in-service inspection
      - Advances in inspection, testing, and condition assessment technologies
      - Aligning maintenance strategies with asset health tracking
      - Equipment lifecycle management, refurbishment, and replacement planning
      - Approaches to addressing supply chain constraints
      - Spares management within a constrained supply chain operating environment
      - Addressing safety, access, and maintainability within the design of stations
      - Digital technologies supporting station inspection and maintenance

    - Standards, specifications, and utility lessons learned

- **Vegetation Management & Right-of-Way Resiliency**
    - Description: This track focuses on utility experience in vegetation management as a critical component of system reliability, safety, and resilience.
    - Topics:
        - Vegetation management strategies for transmission and distribution systems
        - Right-of-way planning, access, and long-term stewardship
        - Wildfire risk mitigation and vegetation-related resilience strategies
        - Remote sensing, LiDAR, and satellite imagery applications
        - Drone-based inspection, assessment, QA/QC, and monitoring
        - Integrating vegetation data with asset and outage management systems
        - Utilizing right-of-way corridors as ecological and environmental assets
        - Balancing reliability, safety, environmental, and regulatory requirements
        - Workforce safety and contractor management practices and enhancements
        - Performance metrics, analytics, and lifecycle management approaches

- **System Planning, Operations, & Protection**
    - Description: This track focuses on utility experience in system planning, real-time operations, and protection as power systems evolve.
    - Topics:
        - Integrated T&D system planning
        - Increasing power flow through operational and planning solutions
        - Protection system design, coordination, and performance
        - Wide-area protection, PMUs, and RAS advancements
        - Protection system impacts on system planning (TPL-001 and footnotes)
        - NERC protection compliance
        - Digital twins for planning, operations, and decision support
        - Applications of AI and machine learning in system planning and operations
        - Advancing modelling, visibility, and analytical capabilities for power system planning
        - DER, battery energy storage, and inverter-based resource integration and protection
        - System strength, stability, and reliability in a high-IBR environment
        - Large load integration, protection, and operational impacts
        - Ancillary equipment, monitoring, and control systems
        - Communications architectures supporting protection and operations
        - Bridging planning assumptions with operational realities
        - Protection and control technologies and strategies to detect and prevent wildfires.

- **Electrical & Physical Safety**

- Description: This track focuses on utility experience in electrical and physical safety across transmission and distribution systems.
- Topics:
  - Electrical and physical safety principles in T&D systems
  - Live working practices for lines, cables, and substations
  - Arc flash hazard analysis, mitigation techniques, refreshing an analysis and lessons learned in the long-term management of arc flash assessments
  - Designing for safety, maintainability, and operational access
  - Safety considerations for system resilience and extreme events
  - Use of drones for inspection, assessment, and risk reduction
  - Robotics and automation to reduce worker exposure to risks
  - Safety performance, incident investigation, and continuous improvement
  - Integrating safety into standards, training, and lifecycle management
  - Managing wide-scale outages when DER's could be back-feeding into the grid

Submission Guidelines

- Abstracts must be original and relevant to the conference theme.
- The maximum word count for abstracts is 300 words (excluding title and author details).
- Abstracts should clearly outline the objectives, methodology, results, and conclusions.
- Include 3-5 keywords related to the abstract topic.
- Submissions that include utility co-presenters will be given priority during the selection process.
- Please note that submission does not guarantee a speaking slot.

NOTE: Vendors and Consultants submitting content proposals are encouraged to focus on work completed for specific utility clients, including real world case studies and incidents, and **present alongside utility representatives** to ensure relevance and effective Q&A from our audience.

Tech Demo for 2026: We are introducing **sponsored technology demonstrations** as part of the main conference agenda alongside technical tracks, providing an interactive platform to showcase innovative solutions. These demos offer presenters a unique opportunity to engage industry professionals through hands-on applications. **Please note that these are available for purchase and are not subject to the Call for Abstracts deadline. These can be secured on a first come first serve basis, subject to topic approval. You may submit through the online submission form or contact michelle.goodwin@ceati.com with your submission or for more details.**

Ideal topics include:

- Tools for T&D planning, design, and lifecycle management
- Technologies to increase power flow and optimize and protect existing assets

- Advanced distribution operations, automation, and decision support
- Digital twins for planning, protection, and operations
- DER, IBR, battery storage, and large load integration solutions
- Lines, Cables and Substation and station monitoring, inspection, and asset health tools
- Protection, control, and communications technologies
- Power quality monitoring and analytics
- Safety technologies, including arc flash mitigation and live-line support
- Drones, robotics, and remote inspection applications
- Vegetation management and wildfire risk technologies

For details or to express interest in a Tech Demo, contact Michelle Goodwin at **michelle.goodwin@ceati.com**.