

TORONTO ENERGY CONFERENCE ADDRESSES CHANGING MARKETS



May 10, 2002

The IEEE Toronto Section and the IEE Toronto Branch combined forces once again to host the 2002 International Energy Conference at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre on May 6 and 7. Since the event coincided with the opening to wholesale and retail competition of the Ontario Electricity Market the conference theme "Coping with Market Changes" was timely and topical.

The key question addressed by the Conference: Is the industry coping with market changes and making the most of the opportunities new markets are creating? The answer is "YES" and future changes and developments will continue to reap benefits to customers and the industry.

Summary of Sessions

Robert (Bob) Hanna, Chair of the IEEE Toronto Section opened the Conference by welcoming delegates, speakers and sponsors and set the scene for the Sessions. Bob read a letter from John Estey, President of the IEEE Power Engineering Society conveying best wishes for a successful Conference and briefly describing current strategies and initiatives to better serve IEEE-PES members. Bob then introduced the Conference Moderator Kim Allen, CEO of Universe2U. Kim introduced each session and the speakers. He ensured a well run discussion period in each panel session.

Bob Taylor, Managing Director of East Midlands Electricity Distribution, Powergen, UK was the opening speaker in Session One dealing with Lessons Learned and Future Developments - Part One. Bob provided Ontario transmission and distribution companies a glimpse of what is in store for them when performance based regulation comes into full force here. Bob was followed by Dan Engel of Nexant Consultants in California who provided a lively explanation of the reasons behind the market upsets in California and the lessons learned. He also provided an overview of the status of restructuring in a number of other states.

Session Two switched to the Ontario Scene - Part One with presentations from Norm Fraser, VP Distribution Networks at Hydro Ottawa; John Brace, President of the Independent Power Producers Society of Ontario; and Klaas Degroot chair of the Electricity Distributors Association. This panel focused on how their organizations and members are coping with the transition to the new Ontario market while maintaining good customer service. They also raised some of the issues and concerns that will need to be addressed as the market evolves.

The keynote speaker at Monday's lunch, which was sponsored by Hydro One, was Robin MacLaren, an IEE Trustee and Managing Director of SP Transmission & Distribution, a subsidiary of Scottish Power, UK. Robin conveyed best wishes from the IEE President and Board of Trustees and briefly described the

IEE's Professional Networks initiative and how to participate. He then described how SP Transmission & Distribution are coping with market changes both in the UK and in the North West USA.

Session Three after lunch returned to Lessons Learned and Future Developments - Part Two. Ian Davis, VP of Transmission for National Grid USA provided an overview of the growth of the bulk delivery business in North America with some interesting comparisons to UK experience. Ian was followed by Murray Davis, VP and Chief Technology Officer of DTE Energy, a Detroit Edison subsidiary who presented the results of case studies showing the significant advantages that a distributed generation approach can offer compared to the traditional centralized large generating station approach.

The final session on Monday focused on the Alberta Market Experience with presentations from Bill Kennedy, standing in for Vincent Flynn President & CEO of ESBI Alberta, the Transmission Administrator in Alberta; Brian Vaasjo, EVP and President Energy Division, EPCOR; and Dale McMaster, COO of the Power Pool of Alberta. These three speakers covered many aspects of the Alberta market and made some comparisons with Ontario. Main conclusions are that the Alberta market is now successful after a rocky start. The Ontario market is better positioned for success at the outset, although the dominance of OPGI is still a concern.

Participants enjoyed the Monday evening reception sponsored by GE Canada.

The opening session on Day Two returned to The Ontario Scene - Part Two. Derek Cowbourne, VP Market Services of the IMO which is the market operator and system operator in Ontario. Derek stressed the need for greater education and understanding of the new market in Ontario by the public and market participants alike. This is essential if maximum opportunities are to be realised from opening the market to competition and choice. Derek also provided some results from the first few days of the new market. He cautioned that while the market is responding as expected so far it is "too early to tell what is working well and what is not." Nabila Yousef, Senior Advisor for North America at DTE Energy, then described how they are seizing the opportunity of competitive markets to promote a range of distributed generation solutions to meet customer needs for reliable, high quality stable cost power.

Session Six dealt with "Enabling Technology" and how technology is facilitating new markets and their evolution. Particularly how to cope with the explosion of data points and information flows that now have to be handled. Also how competitive markets are driving some of the new technology developments and associated changes to power system design, operations, power quality and energy management. Excellent presentations were given on these topics by Larry Sollecito, Presi-

dent & General Manager of GE Power Management; Randy Berry, standing in for JD Hammerly VP Marketing and Sales at ALSTOM Energy Management & Markets; Narain Hingorani, HVDC pioneer and father of FACTS and Custom Power innovations; and Dave Felzien, Product Manager, Energy Information Systems, ABB-USA.

The keynote speaker at Tuesday's lunch was Jim Farmer, General Manager Maritime Business Unit, Xwave, a subsidiary of Aliant. Jim provided an IT perspective on coping with market changes and introduced the Xwave concept of company-wide "Co-Integration" of computing and information services and how it can lead to a sustainable competitive advantage.

The closing session after lunch focused on current issues facing the industry and the industry's response. The panel of experts included Peter Fraser, Senior Policy Advisor - Electricity from IEA France who spoke on distributed generation in liberalised markets; Stuart Brindley, Manager Emergency Preparedness & Information Security, the IMO who described emergency planning in the Ontario and larger North American markets, post 9/11; and finally Peter Love, Executive Director of the Canadian Energy Efficiency Alliance explained how Energy Efficiency initiatives are being maintained in competitive markets. This generated a lively discussion period.

The Conference was closed out by the Conference Co-chairs, Vince Green and Jim McConnach thanking the delegates, Speakers, Moderator Kim Allen, the Sponsors the organizing committee and the conference services for their excellent participation and contribution to the success of the sessions and events.

Organization and Conference Record

The Conference was organized by the Power Engineering Society chapter of IEEE Toronto and the IEE Toronto Branch. Thanks and appreciation are due to the Speakers and to the generous sponsorship and support provided by Hydro One; GE Canada; ALSTOM; ABB Inc; DTE Energy; ADWEL and Black & McDonald. A Conference of this quality would not have been possible without the generous support provided by the Speakers and Sponsors.

Copies of the Conference Record are available at a modest price. This includes the full program of speakers, abstracts, bios, presentations and papers. Visit the Conference web-site at: <http://www.tor.ieee.ca/energy> for further details or contact Georgina Smith at GDS Registration Services, phone (416) 691 4001 or e-mail gd.smith@sympatico.ca.

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