



Welcome

Whistler British Columbia
Tech Conference and Expo

Whistler Art Centre

August 14, 2026, 8 am

Mike Brisbois, PE | 708.668.5488 | mike.brisbois@ieee.org

Speaker Lineup

07:30 am Breakfast Buffet Whistler Style

07:50 am Announcements, introduction of all speakers, Welcome the Mayor

08:00 am Keynote Russell Braxton, Managing Director, Altus jobs LLC CISSP, CISA, OSCP, CEH, Lochard LLC

08:25 am Merna Youssef, AI Engineer specializing in Data analysis and Research, IPMagiX

08:50 am Bruce Voss, P.Eng, Protecting Xmission Infrastructure for Planet Earth, Co-Founder, Beyond

09:15 am Antoine Karam, Caleb Controls, C-COM Satellite Systems

09:40 am Nasrin Sabet, Smart Grid & Data Systems, Globalink Mentor

10:05 am Karl Weaver, Asian Mobile Industry Biz Dev Rainmaker

10:30 am Mark Damm, CEO Inventor AI Pioneer Intelligent Systems Expert Systems, Smart Energy

10:55 am Sweta Gupta, CEO, Gridless Global

11:20 am Jignesh Sailor, Building Tomorrow's Power Infrastructure, Intelligent Technology, Elegrow Technology

11:45 am John Whitelam, Control System Engineer, Contrologix

12:10 pm Prize Pack Give away, Special Guest, Lunch Buffet

12:35 pm Daniel Robles, Professional Engineer Founder Expert Witness, CoEngineers

1:00 pm Dominic Vogel, Manufacturing and B2B Avoid Million-Dollar Cybersecurity Losses

1:25 pm Shaun St-Amour, Passionate Retrofits Resilient Prefab Passive HousesVP Operations, Clay Construction

1:50 pm Dr. David M. Hester, Jr, Wellbeing Tech Innovator Lifeguides, Vice President

2:15 pm James Jackson, Robotics AI Imaging MedTech Consumer Sys Arch, Validation, Perceptive Health, VP Eng

2:40 pm Dennis Walters, Hydrogen Systems, Chief of Staff, STARS technology corporation

3:05 pm David Jones, Mission Critical Control Room Business Development Specialist

3:30 pm Samson Toro, Associate at Broderick Group

3:55 pm Milad Arouni, Director of Emerging Markets Data Center and Energy Transition, Burns and McDonnell

4:20 pm Mahdi Haghzadeh, PhD, RF Systems, Automotive Radar & AI-Driven EDA Expert, Founder, Cognitave

4:45 pm Salute to the Speakers, Happy Hour

07:50 am Announcements, introduction of all speakers, Welcome the Mayor



Russell Braxton

Mr. Braxton is an experienced Information Technology Manager with a demonstrated history of working in the staffing and IT industry. Skilled in HP Procurve Networking, Cisco Meraki, Cisco Networking, Engineering Management, Sonicwall gms, orca, atlassian, carbon black, crowdstrike, aws, azure, rapid 7 idr, linux sys admin, ad admin, azure key vault, palo alto. Strong information technology professional with a Bachelor of Science (BS) focused in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from University of Central Florida.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/russell-braxton-b63057138/>



Merna Youssef

With a strong foundation in data analysis and AI, I've actively contributed to projects that enhance healthcare solutions and software products. The culmination of my academic journey at Cairo University with a focus on Biomedical Engineering has empowered me with a solid foundation in data analysis, translating complex data into actionable insights.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/merna-youssef-497527237/>



Bruce Voss, P.Eng

Mr. Voss works for SAFETECTON, INC. which relies on over three decades of engineering expertise to deliver innovative solutions in corrosion detection, cathodic protection, and coating application for utility transmission line assets. As a licensed Professional Engineer (P. Eng.), this role focuses on enabling clients to enhance asset durability through condition assessments, technical audits, and tailored strategies designed to mitigate corrosion on critical infrastructure. With a proven track record across diverse environments, the team specializes in providing end-to-end project management, from planning to implementation. SAFETECTON's collaborative approach ensures alignment with client goals, leveraging technical knowledge to advance operational efficiency in the utility and telecommunications sectors. Driving value through methodical execution and a commitment to excellence, the organization continues to shape best practices in engineering and construction management.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/brucevoss/>



Antoine Karam

Mr. Karam with over 35 years of experience in leading diverse technology and business development projects. Business Strategist: Proven success in planning and managing multi-million-dollar projects, aligning technology solutions with business goals to drive improvements and enhance profitability. Effective Communicator: Strong ability to bridge technical, business, and financial perspectives for executive clients and their teams. Project Management Expert: Skilled in agile and waterfall methodologies, with a track record of managing multidisciplinary teams to deliver projects on time and within budget. Extensive experience in software design and implementation for scalable client/server and cloud-based services. Industry Expertise: Extensive knowledge in Edge AI, Machine Learning, SATCOM, telecom, VoIP, Business and Data Analytics, Augmented Intelligence, secure data networks, IoT, Energy Efficiency, Smart Buildings, and Smart Homes.

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Nasrin Sabet

- Electrical Power Systems
- Power Optimization
- Renewable Energy Systems
- Electrical Machines
- Low- & Medium-Voltage Panels
- Smart Metering Systems (AMI/AMR)
- Smart Meter Communication Protocols (ANSI C12.18 / C12.19 / C12.21, Optical Probe, HDLC)
- Payment Service Providers (PSP)
- Banking Systems & Electronic Payment Infrastructure

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/nasrin-sabet-20736472/>

10:05 am Karl Weaver, Asian Mobile Industry Biz Dev Rainmaker



Karl Weaver

Career Greater China/India/Asia Wireless Market, Bilingual Mandarin-speaking Professional + wireless & OEM/ODM mobile handset ecosystem specialist, involved in the sale of wireless technologies while living/working on both sides of the Pacific Rim for decades.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/karljweaver/>



Mark Damm

Mark Damm is an Executive Leader, Technology Founder and Inventor. He currently leads the strategy, development and GTM for an emerging Sovereign AI Platform that provides a secure, real-time data management platform for critical industries. The platform integrates AI, digital twins, and predictive analytics to deliver actionable insights for complex facilities, campuses, and utilities that drive operational performance, sustainability, and resilience in critical environments including defense and emergency services. Mark's mission is to make complexity simple. With over 25 years of leadership in AI, enterprise IT, and secure systems, Mark is a recognized authority in the design and delivery of advanced IT environments for the built world. His experience spans large-scale public and private sector projects, including municipal governments, utilities, transportation agencies, and Fortune 500 companies. Mark began his career as a systems architect and software engineer, developing mission-critical

solutions for asset management, operations monitoring, and infrastructure automation. Over the years, he has gained deep expertise in integrating diverse technologies from building management systems and IoT networks to real-time data streaming, cybersecurity, and cloud-native platforms. A frequent collaborator with universities and innovation hubs, Mark is a strong advocate for industry-academic collaboration. Mark partners with academic institutions like Toronto Metropolitan University in applied research and smart infrastructure initiatives, such as Toronto Metropolitan University's SCIThub, the world's first fully digitally enabled building, to bring real-world smart infrastructure applications into living labs. He has also worked with Canada's Department of National Defense, universities, cities, local governments, utilities, and infrastructure projects across North America to deploy advanced digital solutions. Mark is also the inventor of patented methods for automating the design and operation of complex systems, using model-driven engineering and machine learning techniques now embedded into the AI platform's and service delivery approaches. These innovations enable data platforms to be deployed faster, more securely, and with measurable impact across an organization's lifecycle.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/mark-damm/>



Author Clandestine

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/sgupt025>

Sweta Gupta



Jignesh Sailor

From factory floors to digital substations my journey has always been about connecting real world industry challenges with smart, safe, and sustainable power solutions. Mr. Sailor began his engineering career in 2008 after completing my Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering, starting as a Field Service Engineer. In that first year, he mastered Thermal Imaging, Power Quality Analysis (as per IEEE 519), and contributed to Energy Audits across diverse industries including Textile, Cement, Chemical, Oil & Gas, Port, and FMCG.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jignesh-sailor/>



John Whitelam

Extensive expertise from the initial design concept through to the delivery of simple to complex turnkey HVAC control systems including competitive system migrations and integration of differing protocols. Participating in Integrated Project Delivery methods. Coordinating project management and operations activities to closely adhere to established project budgets. Preparing and leading the Commissioning Team to fulfill the project requirements.

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12:10 pm Prize Pack Give away, Special Guest, Lunch Buffet



Daniel Robles

Professional Engineer, Founder, Expert Witness, Co-Engineers

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ingenelist/>



Dominic Vogel

Dominic Vogel is a well-respected cyber security thought leader appearing on media news outlets across the world. As a veteran cyber security expert and thought leader, Dominic holds a proven track record across multitude of industries (financial services, logistics, transportation, healthcare, government, telecommunications, and critical infrastructure). Dominic is a firm believer in delivering sustainable security that supports and protects business goals. Having worked within large and globally diverse organizations he has extensive security experience that has been forged over the past two decades as an information security professional. Dominic is a 2x founder who has focused on providing unbiased actionable cyber security strategic guidance and advice to startups and small businesses across North America. Dominic is the President at Vogel Cyber Leadership & Coaching, a Vancouver-based leadership advisory company specializing in cyber risk management. He is also a self-professed positive troll and professional hype man and believes in the power of uplifting others through his high-energy coaching practice.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/domvogel/>



Shaun St. Amour

Passionate about Resilient Prefab Passive Houses. Mr. St-Amour is excited about his new role, Manager of Revive at ETRO Construction, so if you have a project that needs to be REstored, REhabilitated, or REinvented to reach out to him.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/shaun-st-amour-a497841/>



Dr. David Hester

Core Competencies- Integrative Human Development:

Bridging neuroscience, contemplative practices, organizational development, and behavioral research to cultivate inclusive and creative work environments.

- Executive Coaching & Strategic Planning: Over 10 years of experience in executive coaching and strategic planning within the tech and health and wellness industries.
- Well-being Technology Curation & Design: Expertise in curating and developing new technologies for well-being, including product design for meditation applications and programs.
- Military & Veteran Support Programs: Deep background in supporting military and veteran communities, including direct engagement with senior military leadership and providing EAP services.
- Behavioral & Cognitive Research: Proficient in applying fundamental neuroscience, cognitive neuropsychology, and qualitative/quantitative research to enhance human performance and organizational outcomes.

Quantifiable Achievements

- Organizational Transformation: Successfully propelled small businesses from an annual recurring revenue of \$300,000 to an impressive \$5 million in less than four years.
- Empathy Training Implementation: Instrumental in providing empathy training to EAP team leaders, directly impacting the support provided to DoD personnel through Beacon Health's Military OneSource platform for over three years.
- Product Development Collaboration: Worked in a developmental role with engineers, scientists, and entrepreneurs on product designs for meditation applications and programs, contributing to the development and commercialization of new well-being technologies.
- Strategic Advisory: Provided support to military leadership, including working with the General of the former Pope Air Force Base/Fort Bragg and the Fayetteville NC Chapter of Veteran Affairs, advising on initiatives impacting veteran well-being and community engagement.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/go4dave/>



James Jackson

Principal innovation engineer and systems lead with 15+ years in regulated product development. I've taken first-in-class surgical robotics, surgical instrumentation, drug delivery systems, consumer electronics, and AI-driven automation from early vision through R&D, verification, manufacturing readiness, and commercial launch. Named inventor on 40+ granted patents. Hands-on across systems design, human factors, industrial design, UX, software, and mechanical engineering.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/james-jackson-b2355a17/>

2:40 pm Dennis Walters, Hydrogen Systems, Chief of Staff, STARS technology corporation



Facilitator, Strategic Planner, Business Development, Management troubleshooter and problem solver.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/dennis-walters-54b56211/>

Dennis Walters



David Jones

Throughout his extensive career in the mission critical control room industry, he has had the opportunity to serve in numerous roles, including business development and GTM specialist, system integrator, manufacturer, and consultant. This broad exposure has allowed himself to navigate the industry from multiple perspectives and develop a well-rounded approach to addressing industry challenges. This diverse background has equipped himself with a comprehensive understanding of the industry's unique challenges and best practices, enabling himself to deliver effective solutions and expert guidance in complex environments. Mr. Jones strongly supports integrating advanced technologies into the control room environment, including tools like digital twinning and augmented or virtual reality systems. By leveraging these innovations, organizations can enhance operational efficiency, improve situational awareness, and optimize overall performance within critical spaces.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/david-jones-83b35311/>

3:30 pm Samson Toro, Associate at Broderick Group



Seattle native and a University of Washington graduate. Specializing in Flex and Industrial leasing in the North End and Eastside markets, representing both landlords and tenants. Before joining Broderick Group, I built a successful career in renewable energy, where I developed a strong foundation in client relations and market analysis.

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Samson Toro



Milad Arouni

As a projects director at Burns & McDonnell, Mr. Arouni provide consulting and engineering services on wind, solar, energy storage and electrification projects, helping clients transition technologies and business models to the next-generation electric grid. With nearly two decades of experience, he has managed nearly \$100 million in projects across multiple industry sectors, including renewable energy, smart grid, power generation, distributed generation and grid edge for electric vehicle manufacturers, utilities and developers. From renewable energy solutions to electrification advancements, He is passionate about helping his clients propel forward in the power industry. I am a certified professional engineer, project management professional (PMP) and Lean Six Sigma green belt.

Prior to joining Burns & McDonnell, Milad delivered and managed over 100,000 endpoints for Ontario's two largest utilities and implemented over 75MW of energy generation and renewable projects. He earned his master's degree in mechanical and industrial engineering from Ryerson University and my bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Toronto. When he is not working, he enjoys spending time with family and friends, and he participates in sports such as basketball and soccer. Burns & McDonnell plans, designs, permits, constructs and manages projects all over the world with one mission in mind: to make our clients successful. As a 100% employee-owned firm ranking in the top leading firms for safety, each professional brings an ownership mentality to our projects. That means we think like owners, working through each challenge until it's resolved, exceeding our clients' goals.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/milad-arouni/>



Independent Expert – RF Systems, Automotive Radar & EDA
Founder, Cognitave Inc. Advisor on mmWave Measurement,
Radome Systems & AI-Enabled Design.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/maxdi/>

Mahdi Haghzadeh, PhD

Mike Brisbois, PE Conference Director



Mike Brisbois, PE

Mr. Brisbois is an Electrical Engineer with design experience, project management and leadership skills. He has worked in the building, space, manufacturing and technology sectors. He has hosted and presented at many technical sessions and conferences. He is a technical competent leader and able to get things done. Mr. Brisbois has his Professional Engineering license in the State of Washington, Oregon, Texas, Illinois, California, and Missouri. His focus is on leading sustainable energy projects. Completed the Certified Energy Management course and is an FPE (Fire Protection Engineer). He is a board member on several technical organizations.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/mike-brisbois-pe-2b79207/>

4:45 pm Salute to the Speakers, Happy Hour



Thank You!

for joining us today at the Whistler Tech Conference Expo

We will see you next time at
the Alaska Cruise Conference
and Expo on

May 5, 2027