Welcome

San Diego

Tech Conference and Expo

December 5, 2025

We have an exciting program just for you!

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

Speaker Lineup San Diego Tech Conference and Expo December 5, 2025

7:30 am Southern California Hot Breakfast buffet
8:00 am Announcing Speakers – Special Guest Mayor of San Diego kicking off the conf
8:10 am Bobby Soltani, Patent Attorney, Partner at Seed IPAI, Electronics, Semiconductors
8:35 am Ed Stadelman, Electrical Safety 70B, Siemens
9:00 am Esteve Mede, CEO, SDVOSB, SBA 8(a) certified STARS III, GSA Sch IT 70
9:25 am Khai Minh Pham, MD, PhD Founder CEO at ThinkingNode.ai Distributed AI
9:50 am A word from our sponsor
10:00 am Jonathan Reichental, PhD Keynote Founder, Author, Human Future
10:30 am Jennifer Dunaway, PE Director of Safety Occupational Health NAVFAC
10:55 am Farrokh Aminifar, Quanta Technology Data Analytics Cloud for Grid Modernization
11:20 am Angela E. Scott, Energy Sustainability, automation controls, Siemens
11:55 am Prize Pack Give away
12:00 pm Southern Lunch Buffet – Guest Speaker – Olympic Coach Tom Maloney
12:30 pm Kimon Onuma, FAIA Building Informed Environments
2:00 pm Tommy Gardner, Chief Technology Officer at HP Federal
2:25 pm Taisha Bezzo, Energy Storage Systems, Clean Tech Recharge
2:50 pm Bob Williams, Power Quality Data Centers, Integrated Power Systems
3:15 pm Sivanageswara Rao Gandikota AI Researcher
3:40 pm Jim Dodenoff, Renewable Energy Microgrids, Silent Running
4:05 pm Albert Russell, The Future of Microgrids: Control Systems & Automation
4:30 pm Jitender Jain, Software Engineering Lead AWS Certified Architect Computer Vision
4:55 pm Salute to the Speakers – Special Guest
5:00 pm Happy Hour – Networking – We would like to thank our sponsors
4:45 pm David Robbins, Infrastructure Airports, Sustainability Director
4:50 pm David Eldridge, Director of Engineering, Medical Devices
4:55 pm Darryl Palmer, Control Sys Team Lead Caterpillar Inc., IEEE Activities
5:00 pm Priyanca Iyengar Ford, Clean, Limitless Fusion Power, Founder
5:05 pm Christopher Bridwell, AI Tech Innovator fusing solar Energy data solns CEO
5:10 pm Dr. Merrick Watchorn, Chief Cyber, Quantum, Cognitive, Information
5:15 pm Cece Crafton, Military Advocate Professional Loyal Source
5:20 pm Christopher Sanderson, Change Agent, Six Sigma, Workshop
5:25 pm Alfred Hull, Strategic Leader in Data Management & Analytics
5:30 pm Monika Murugesan, Energy Growth Climate Tech Apex Specialist
5:35 pm Joshua Adewole Adegbola, Computer Electrical Kennesaw State
5:40 pm Maura Schreier-Fleming, Sales Enabler, MondayMorningSalesTipsBestSelling
5:45 pm Brandon Melland, Line worker, Trainer, Seattle City Light
5:50 pm Surendar Ramamoorthy, Policy Implementor SRM Institute
5:55 pm Kenneth Kutsmeda, Global Technology Leader Mission Critical, Jacobs
6:00 pm Michelle Reed, CTDC Data Centers, TIA-942 Design, Shermco Industries
6:05 pm Yashovardhan Sharma Ph D PMP, Construction Engineer, UHPC Researcher
6:10 pm Umair Saleem, IT Support & Networking Professional, CCNA Certified EE
6:15 pm Yi Zhou, Chief AI Officer, Trailblazer, ArgoLong
6:20 pm Sachin Shelar, Facilities Electrical Engineering
6:25 pm Arthur Baranovskiy, ARY Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, CEO Founder

8:10 am Bobby Soltani, Patent Attorney, Partner at Seed IPAI, Electronics

'The Engineer's IP Playbook: Spot It, Capture It, Protect It': Engineers and managers regularly face the same IP fork in the road: what to patent, what to keep secret, and when. This session debunks common myths and uses realistic scenarios to show how to spot protectable innovations early, capture them in plain language, and translate technical insight into defensible rights. We'll explore practical ways to balance patents and trade secrets while aligning R&D milestones, vendor access, procurement realities, and public demos. You'll leave with practical patterns you can use with your R&D and product teams to move fast while protecting what truly differentiates your tech.

Bobby Soltani

Bobby is a patent attorney at Seed Intellectual Property Law Group and focuses his practice on patent prosecution of electrical engineering and computer software matters as well as patent litigation, infringement opinions, licensing, and strategic portfolio management. He received a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Oklahoma, an M.S. in Electrical Engineering from Oklahoma State University, and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Oklahoma College of Law. Bobby has extensive experience preparing and prosecuting domestic and international patent applications in various technologies relating to machine learning, artificial intelligence (AI), virtual reality (VR), robotics, autonomous vehicles, optics, semiconductors, consumer electronics, medical devices, and software applications. His practice also includes drafting opinions and patent portfolio analysis. Before practicing law, Bobby was an electrical engineer at Seagate Technology and the Federal Aviation Administration.

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8:35 am Ed Stadelman, Electrical Safety 70B, Siemens

Presentation Title: Applying NFPA 70B & 70E to Electrical System Installations, Maintenance, and Modernization. NFPA 70B, The Standard for Electrical Equipment Maintenance, NFPA 70E, The Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace

Key Topics Covered: Today we know that NFPA 70B has been a standard since 2023 [NFPA 70B, which addresses preventive maintenance for electrical equipment, has been around since 1975. Initially, it was adopted as a recommended practice, but it officially transitioned to a standard on January 1, 2023]. These standard documents the requirements for an electrical maintenance program (EMP) in section 4.2.4.2, This section details the required documentation, safety, training, and timing, to perform maintenance on your electrical distribution equipment. All documented tasks within an EMP must be stored for review and future use.

Now with document storage in a cloud-based system in place, what are the next steps to address continuous improvement and corrective measures in your EMP.

How can we build it safer today, and what can we do to our existing electrical distribution equipment for safer maintenance and to increase its overall reliability.
This session will provide an understanding of:

- How new installations can be designed and built for safety and easier maintenance.
- Why maintenance and testing are a must.
- How modernization can help with EMP compliance and lead to a safer and more reliable electrical distribution system.

Ed Stadelman

Ed Stadelman*, Electrical Services, Siemens* is a National Business Manager, Electrical Services for Siemens Smart Infrastructure, he is an electrical engineer focused on power distribution. He has worked at Siemens for more than 25 years in the Electrical Services Business. Today he consults with customers on their adoption of NFPA 70B standards and helps them prioritize the steps they take to become compliant.

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9:00 am Esteve Mede, CEO, SDVOSB, SBA 8(a) certified STARS III, GSA Schedule IT 70

Advancing Cyber Resilience Through Cognitive Digital Twins and Ontology-Driven AI

This presentation will introduce a next-generation approach for achieving autonomous cybersecurity and adaptive mission resilience using Cognitive and Extended Digital Twins (CDT/XDT) enhanced by ontology-based AI reasoning. The methodology models enterprise networks, mission systems, and Security Operations Centers as continuously evolving Cognitive Digital Twins capable of understanding their own state, detecting anomalies, and orchestrating optimized recovery actions in real time. By unifying ontologies, knowledge graphs, advanced analytics, and OODA-loop reasoning, this architecture provides a semantically rich foundation for explainable decision-making and intelligent automation. Integrated with modern DevSecOps pipelines, the approach enables continuous validation of security posture, configuration integrity, and mission readiness from development through deployment. This talk will highlight how ontology-driven cognition and Digital Twin simulation transform cybersecurity from a reactive, tool-centric process into a predictive, self-healing capability—supporting federal, defense, and aerospace communities seeking trusted autonomy, zero-trust alignment, and resilient mission assurance in contested or disconnected environments.

Esteve Mede

Esteve Mede is the Chief Executive Officer, and founder of End-to-End Enterprise Solutions, LLC. Esteve is a proven leader with a history of efficiently growing and transforming IT programs. Under Esteve's leadership at End-to-End Computing, LLC, the company has developed several unique services and solutions offerings, including cybersecurity, Bid Data Analytics, Software Development, and Internal Audits. Prior to running End-to-End Computing, LLC full-time Mr. Mede had the privilege of serving as the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) for the Federal Election Commission, and Six (6) years in the US Army. He worked USPTO as a Patent Examiner in the field of Information Security and Cryptography. He served at the Department of Commerce as an Information Technology Security Officer before leading the IT shop for the Postal Regulatory Commission. Mr. Mede holds a bachelor’s degree in computer science from Campbell University, Buies Creek NC and a master’s degree in information assurance from Capitol Technology University, Laurel MD.

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9:25 am Khai Minh Pham, MD, PhD Founder CEO at ThinkingNode.ai Distributed AI

Khai Minh Pham, MD, PhD

Combining Medicine (MD) and AI (PhD) at Sorbonne University, Dr. Khai Minh Pham is an innovative serial entrepreneur and a leading expert in Distributed AI. He has been in the field of AI for 30 years and is the author of a unified neuro-symbolic AI approach, called Macro-connectionist Agent Reasoning Technology (SMART), that differs from Connectionism (Artificial Neural Networks) by considering assemblies of neurons (Agents) rather than a single neuron. First gen of SMART has been used in his first AI company (clients such as Amex, Chase, Bank of America…), and it has been acquired by E.piphany (Nasdaq:EPNY) for US$637 M.Second gen of SMART has been utilized in his 2nd AI company, to develop the most advanced human digital cell clones for drug R&D. They are used to predict and understand cellular behavior and responses to target knockdowns before preclinical testing, as well as to drugs during each phase of clinical trials. This significantly de-risks the entire drug R& D process. Dr. Pham was also a founding advisory board member of Kwaai, a non-profit AI Research that aims to democratize AI. 2025: Keynote at AIDBio@JPM 2025, talk at BioTech Showcase and at China Bío Forum. In 2024: Keynote at AIDBio@BIO 2024, Kwaai Summit, and AIDBio Labs@JPM, SCaLE 21x (largest open source in N. America) – Talk at Evolve2024, StartupWeek San Diego, The Future of AI & Ventures at Microsoft Silicon Valley Headquarter – Lecture at a Master Program in Clinical Research at Dresden International University. In 2023: Keynote at Kwaai Personal AI Summit, at AI Digital Biology Day – AIDBio 2023, and at a Master Program in Clinical Research at Dresden International University, and as speaker at Bio Investor Forum, twice at CTO Talks Series, and IEEE CAI 2023, IEEE Webinar Series: AI in Healthcare, and IEEE AI IT Symposium.M.D. and Ph.D. in AI (Magna Cum Laude at Sorbonne University Paris). He published several scientific papers (IEEE, Wiley, Elsevier…), received international grants, taught AI at LISH-CNRS, had an entrepreneur award from BP, and was EIR/Mentor at CONNECT.

https://www.linkedin.com/in/khai-minh-pham/

10:00 am Jonathan Reichental, PhD Keynote Founder, Author, Human Future
In this keynote, Dr. Jonathan Reichental will provide an overview of the key trends, innovations, and challenges influencing how cities will grow and function in the years ahead, and what that means for communities, leaders, and citizens.

Jonathan Reichental, PhD

Dr. Jonathan Reichental is the founder of Human Future, a global business and technology advisory, investment, and education firm. Previous roles have included senior software engineering manager, director of technology innovation, and he has served as chief information officer at both O'Reilly Media and the City of Palo Alto, California. In 2013 he was recognized as one of the 25 doers, dreamers, and drivers in government in America. In 2016, he was named a top influential CIO in the United States and in 2017, he was named one of the top 100 CIOs in the world. He has also won a best CIO in Silicon Valley award and a national IT leadership prize. Reichental is a recognized global thought leader on several emerging trends including urban innovation, smart cities, sustainability, blockchain technology, data governance, the fourth industrial revolution, and digital transformation. He holds several degrees including a Ph.D. in Information Systems. He is an adjunct professor in the School of Management at the University of San Francisco and instructs at several other universities. Reichental regularly creates online video courses for LinkedIn Learning. Reichental is a popular global keynote speaker and writer. He writes for Forbes and has published many books including: Smart Cities for Dummies, Exploring Smart Cities Activity Book for Kids, and Exploring Cities Bedtime Rhymes. His latest programs include Data Governance for Dummies and Cryptocurrency QuickStart Guide.

https://www.linkedin.com/in/reichental/

10:30 am Jennifer Dunaway, PE Director of Safety Occupational Health NAVFAC

Jennifer Dunaway

Safety Culture: How to Evaluate and Effect Change.

Safety culture refers to the shared values, beliefs, and behaviors regarding safety within an organization. It goes beyond simply following rules and procedures; it encompasses the attitudes and commitment of both leadership and employees toward maintaining a safe work environment. This talk will discuss how to gauge a workplace safety culture and how to change it with discussions on a case study.

Since late 2014, she has been the Director of Safety and Occupational Health for a large Navy command with approximately 3,400 personnel with multiple locations in California, Nevada and Arizona. During that time, she has managed a complete overhaul of the safety program and department, restructuring the organization, reviewing and updating all programs, improving staffing and retention, and has started to prepare the command for OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) quality status. During her tenure, the in-house Days Away Restricted Duty (DART) rate has dropped by over half, decreasing the number of injuries and severity of injuries as well as worker's compensation costs. Jennifer Dunaway attended California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, where she received her bachelor's degree in civil engineering, Cum Laude. She went on to obtain her master's in civil and environmental engineering at San Diego State University. Ms. Dunaway received her Professional Safety and Health Officer Certifications in General Industry and Construction from University of California San Diego OSHA Technical Institute and has a master's in occupational safety and health from Columbia Southern University. She is also a Licensed Civil Engineer in the state of California.

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10:55 am Farrokh Aminifar, Advisor Quanta Technology

Advanced Sensor Data Analytics and Cloud Computation for Grid Modernization

Advanced sensor data analytics and cloud computation are redefining the way modern power grids are monitored and managed. With increasing integration of inverter-based resources (IBRs), there's a critical need for high-resolution, real-time data from systems such as phasor measurement units (PMUs) and point-on-wave sensors recently referred to as waveform measurement units (WMUs). These technologies enable enhanced situational awareness, rapid event detection, and deeper insights into grid dynamics. To support these capabilities at scale, cloud platforms are emerging as essential infrastructure. By eliminating geographical and physical constraints, cloud systems enable seamless data transmission, enterprise-wide access, and scalable analytics. Following a review of these advanced, we will introduce a sensor-to-cloud architecture, allowing synchronized measurement data to stream directly from substations to the cloud, facilitating real-time visualization, alarming, parameter estimation, and event analysis. This architecture also supports Virtual Power Plant (VPP) management by providing the operational data needed for coordinated control and optimization of distributed energy resources, marking a significant shift in utility operations and digital transformation strategies.

Farrokh Aminifar

Farrokh Aminifar (Senior Member, IEEE) (faminifar@quanta-technology.com) is a Distinguished Expert in power systems with a decade of academic experience as a Faculty Member and the Head of the Power Engineering Department, University of Tehran. He is currently a Principal Advisor with Quanta Technology, LLC, where he brings his expertise to the power system industry, focusing on monitoring, analytics, and optimization. His contributions have been recognized with prestigious honors, including 15 awards amongst are the IEEE PES Best Paper Prize, the Iran National Academy of Engineering Young Scientist Award, and the COMSTECH Young Researcher Award.

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11:20 am Angela E. Scott, Energy Sustainability, automation controls, Siemens

Charging Ahead: Li-Ion Battery Safety, AI Solutions, & Sustainability
Join us for an insightful breakout session focused on fire safety principles and cutting-edge solutions for Li-Ion Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in mission-critical environments, such as data centers. As data centers increasingly rely on high-density lithium-ion battery systems for backup power and energy optimization, fire safety has become a paramount concern. This session will explore how emerging trends in artificial intelligence are being used to enhance fire detection, predict thermal events, and support real-time risk management. We will examine innovative approaches to fire hazard mitigation, battery monitoring, and system design that improve operational resilience while meeting evolving regulatory and insurance standards. Attendees will leave with actionable best practices for integrating advanced safety protocols into their battery storage infrastructure and ensuring up time in the face of increasing power demands and safety expectations.

Angela E. Scott

Angela E. Scott brings 28 years of leadership, technical expertise, and strategic growth experience in the Electrification, Buildings, and IT industries. Her career has been deeply rooted in automation and controls technology, energy and sustainability, HVAC/R systems, indoor air quality, Internet of Things (IoT), and Software as a Service (SaaS). Recognized as a subject matter expert in building performance, Angela has advised global clients across all building verticals - helping them meet ambitious energy efficiency and sustainability targets through innovative design, advanced systems, and data-driven strategies. In her current role as Director of Mission Critical Business Development and Strategy for Siemens Smart Infrastructure Buildings, Angela focuses on fire safety and building performance for mission-critical facilities. Her work bridges innovative technology with operational excellence, delivering solutions that protect assets, ensure compliance, and enable measurable performance gains. Angela holds an Executive Global MBA from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a Bachelor of Business Administration from Kennesaw State University. She is a Certified Indoor Air Environmentalist (CIE), a Six Sigma Black Belt, and is completing her certification as a Certified Energy Manager (CEM). Whether speaking on leadership, sustainability, or innovation, Angela is known for blending deep technical expertise with strategic vision—empowering teams, organizations, and individuals to achieve lasting impact.

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11:55 am Prize Pack Give away

12:00 pm Southern Lunch Buffet – Guest Speaker – Olympic Coach Tom Maloney

Innovation verses imitation: Coach Maloney went from an airline employee to a successful coach using information gathered from advancements in technology called Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) that increased understanding on how the human brain works and used that knowledge to develop unique techniques allowing athletes to achieve their goals.

Tom Maloney

Coach Tom Maloney has worked with professional and Olympic athletes to improve performance using techniques based in neuroscience that he developed. Coach Maloney has had athletes competing in 7 straight Olympics earning 2 bronze medals.

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12:30 pm Kimon Onuma, FAIA Building Informed Environments

From Static BIM to Living Systems
When Systems Connect, Intelligence Emerges
Kimon Onuma, FAIA
Decompose → Recompose: we took it apart first. Using a Lego-movie style storyboard of *"The Coalition That Freed the Living Building,"* I'll show how the Coalition for Smarter Buildings under the Linux Foundation quietly plugged an open-control edge gateway into the on-prem BACnet network of the PAE Living Building and securely bridged its real signals to the cloud using open standards (ASHRAE 223P, Project Haystack, Brick Schema, RDF, IFC, and more). This connection enabled us to recompose PV, battery, utility, and other systems into a cloud-native digital twin — without ripping out any vendor platforms.

We'll walk through the before/after dashboards, how humans and AI used to "hallucinate" when data was siloed, and how a simple graph model now lets intelligence emerge across systems. The goal is practical: a repeatable recipe that owners, engineers, and developers can apply to a building, a campus, a base, or a city. Drawing from the real-world pilot inside the fully occupied, net-positive PAE Living Building, this talk explains how a cross-domain team turned a high-performance building into a living system, one that can sense, understand, and act. The breakthrough came from giving every device, room, asset, and system a persistent identity and shared semantics as a digital twin, enabling automation across proprietary tools.

Attendees will see a live web demonstration of the PAE Living Building, including:

- How real-time data attaches to spaces, assets, and systems
- How a lightweight semantic layer enables automation across proprietary tools
- How RDF graphs relationships reveal energy, HVAC, solar, and occupancy behavior
- How AI stabilizes once building data gains grounding and context
- How a battery dropping below 15% now triggers an automated workflow
- Why this approach scales: from buildings → campuses → cities

This is a showcase of living systems in production, the future of building intelligence emerging from open connections, not closed systems.
Attendees can explore the companion articles:

- "The Coalition That Freed the Living Building"

https://www.automatedbuildings.com/2025/11/the-coalition-that-freed-the-living-building/

- "From Static BIM to Living Systems"
- https://www.automatedbuildings.com/2025/11/from-static-bim-to-living-systems/
- "It's Alive: Intelligence and the PAE Living Building"

- https://www.automatedbuildings.com/2025/10/its-alive-intelligence-and-the-pae-living-building/

Kimon Onuma

Kimon Onuma is a technology strategist with over 37 years at the intersection of the built environment, data, and systems interoperability. He is the founder of ONUMA, Inc., a pioneer in cloud-based solutions for BIM, GIS, and Digital Twins, delivering cloudBIM in 2000 when most still shipped CDs.

A Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and Co-Chair of the Buildings Committee at buildingSMART USA, Kimon has long championed open standards and owner-driven digital ecosystems. He has led projects with the U.S. State Department, Department of Defense, Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security, GSA, and California Community Colleges, always emphasizing outcomes over hype and real-world implementation over theory.

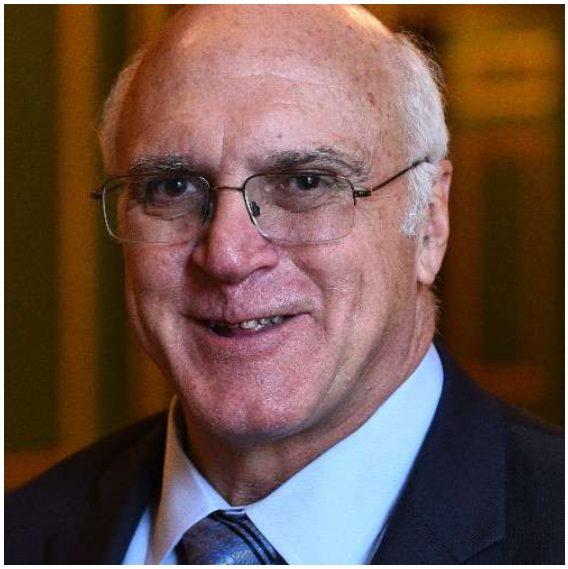
In 2025, he launched ZAiMAP, the culmination of decades of work, a system-of-systems connecting BIM, GIS, sensors, AI, and people to deliver situational awareness at scale. It's not a new platform but the evolution of a philosophy: that intelligence, not data, is the most sustainable resource.
Kimon created BIMStorm in 2007 to prototype open collaboration across disciplines and continues to advocate for transparency, interoperability, and informed environments. He contributes regularly to AutomatedBuildings.com, writing on open source, AI, and the shift from isolated tools to connected intelligence for cities and owners.

Kimon has presented at more than 400 events globally and authored numerous industry journals, including the 2006 AIA Report on Integrated Practice, "The 21st Century Practitioner," and was the past chair of the 2013 AIA TAP Chair.

Kimon Onuma, FAIA
Onuma, Inc.
Pasadena, CA
Building Informed Environments™

linkedin.com/in/kimononuma/
https://ONUMA.com
https://BIMStorm.com
https://ZAiMap.ai

2:00 pm Tommy Gardner, Chief Technology Officer at HP Federal



There are many different types of algorithms that make up what we know as AI. The data is what makes these algorithms work. Today there is new and innovative hardware that makes the software tools work better and faster. This talk will address what these issues, capabilities and ethical constraints this new hardware will bring to the market.

Tommy Gardner

Tommy Gardner is HP's Chief Technology Officer for HP Federal, spanning the US Federal Agencies, Higher Education, K-12 Education, State and Local government customer segments, as well as Federal Systems Integrators. His current responsibilities include technology leadership, strategic technology plans, product and technology strategies, sales force technical support, and customer and partner relationships. Previously, Tommy has served as the Chief Technology Officer for Jacobs Engineering, Scitor, and ManTech. Earlier in his career he was a senior technical executive at Raytheon. In the U.S. Navy he served as the Deputy for Science and Technology for the Chief of Naval Research. He oversaw the Navy's Deep Submergence Program as well as its Advanced Technology Program. He also commanded the nuclear submarine, USS San Juan (SSN 751). Tommy's educational background covers multiple disciplines and fields of interest including cybersecurity, data science, blockchain technologies, artificial intelligence, high performance computing and systems integration in government markets. Tommy holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy, a master's in public administration from Harvard University, an M.S. in Management of Technology from MIT and a Ph. D. in Energy Economics from George Washington University. He is a Professional Engineer and serves as Chair of the ASME Industry Advisory Board. He is an ASME Fellow and serves as faculty on the Blockchain Research Institute.

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2:25 pm Taisha Bezzo, Energy Storage Systems, Clean Tech Recharge

Taisha Bezzo

Sales executive with over 15 years of experience driving clean energy growth across the U.S. — specializing in Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) for the C&I and utility-scale markets. She is known for building strong national rep networks, leading high-performing sales teams, and accelerating revenue across new and emerging markets. Taisha has worked alongside developers, EPCs, OEMs, ports, and utilities to bring advanced energy solutions to life — always focused on market traction, technical credibility, and long-term partnerships.

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2:50 pm Bob Williams, Power Quality Data Centers, Integrated Power Systems

Bob Williams

Design and consulting for power quality in datacenters, industrial and commercial environments; UPS systems, datacenter power distribution, surge suppression, harmonic mitigation, voltage regulation and power distribution. Also offering battery energy storage systems (B.E.S.S.) for microgrids and carbon reduction in green building construction. Since 1999 Mr. Williams has been assisting customers in the application of power quality equipment into critical environments. Bob has been working with consultants and design-build contractors on UPS system applications, offering the most efficient redundant designs to maximize power utilization, availability and efficiency. Understanding today's political, economic and environmental needs and trends, He focuses his interest and time toward providing products and solutions that help my customers reduce their operating costs and carbon footprint. Having two decades of experience in the electrical industry on the wholesale level, he has a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of product selection, coordination and the supply chain.

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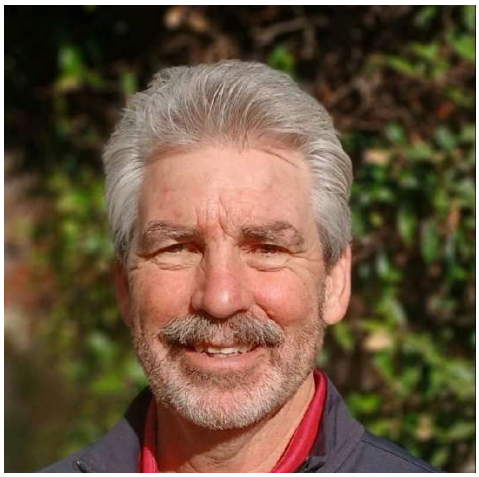
3:15 pm Sivanageswara Rao Gandikota AI Researcher

Sivanageswara Rao Gandikota

3:40 pm Jim Dodenoff, Renewable Energy Microgrids, Silent Running



Jim Dodenoff

Jim works on challenging new opportunities to equitably transform the electricity grid from the centralized system of the past to a distributed model of the future. The objectives of this work are to reduce carbon emissions and enhance energy resiliency. This is accomplished through the development of hybrid renewable energy plants (i.e. microgrids) and energy efficiency projects. He is an energy and sustainability expert with over 25 years of successful experience in the energy and environmental services industry. He has held leadership, business development, management and consultative roles with a broad group of market participants including smart energy software/hardware solution providers, energy/advisory consulting firms, electric utilities, recycled product manufacturers and environmental service firms.

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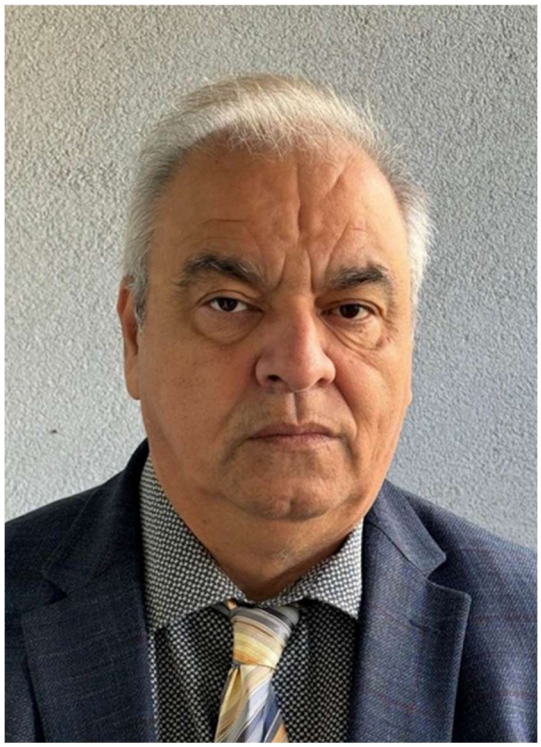
4:05 pm Albert Russell, "The Future of Microgrids: Control Systems & Automation"

Talk will explore how modern energy systems are becoming smarter, more resilient, and increasingly autonomous. The presentation will break down the core architecture of microgrids and highlight the critical role of control systems, PLC/SCADA, and advanced energy management platforms. Attendees will learn how automation, AI-driven optimization, and digital twin modeling are transforming microgrid performance—enabling seamless islanding, predictive energy management, and reliable power for hospitals, manufacturing, and other critical facilities. The talk will provide real-world insights into how next-generation controls and automation are shaping the future of decentralized energy.



Albert Russell

Albert Russell is the founder of Controls Systems Consulting Corp (CSCC), a California-based engineering and automation consulting firm specializing in microgrids, industrial control systems, and building infrastructure projects. With over 15 years of experience in electrical engineering, automation, and project management, Albert has supported OEMs, commercial facilities, and healthcare institutions, including leading a feasibility study for a 1MW microgrid designed for a critical-care hospital. His work focuses on integrating intelligent controls, energy management systems, and automation to create resilient, efficient, and future-ready power solutions. Albert also serves as a chapter leader within IEEE Orange County.

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4:30 pm Darryl Palmer, Control Sys Team Lead Caterpillar Inc., IEEE Activities Chair

Darryl Palmer

Announcing Darryl Palmer to our invited speaker list all the way from Chicago Illinois, you don't want to miss his talk on AI chunking transformers with real robots. He will be presenting on the Physical AI pipeline and demonstrating action chunking transformers using intelligent automation devices. Darryl was former CTO for Janus Choice Healthcare AI and is now currently control systems team lead for Caterpillar.

Please welcome Darryl Palmer
mytechconference.com/sandiego

https://www.linkedin.com/in/darrylpalmer/

Christopher Sanderson, Change Agent, Six Sigma, Workshop

Christopher Sanderson

A proven manager with focused attention to growth and functional team deployment in executing strategies that exceed customer value expectations and with 20+ years of experience in the Energy Industry. An operations leader who excels in fast-paced, rapidly changing environments. Detailed-oriented operations planner who effectively leads multiple-sized teams domestically and internationally. Dedicated to driving success through teamwork and building efficient processes.

https://www.linkedin.com/in/christophersanderson/

Software Engineering Lead AWS Certified Architect Computer Vision AI OCR | Cross-Functional Collaborator, Walmart Global

Jitender Jain

Thoughtful Technology Leader with a proven track record of delivering performance, fault-tolerant enterprise software solutions and services. Experienced in leading technology teams to deliver meaningful products using the Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe). Adept at designing and building scalable, robust, event-driven architectures with a cloud-native approach to microservices. At Walmart, Jitender spearheads the development of a centralized inventory management platform powered by AI and computer vision, collaborating with cross-functional teams like IoT and Mobile to create innovative, end-to-end solutions. Partnering with Cybersecurity teams, He ensures all solutions adhere to stringent security compliance standards while implementing best practices for enhanced data governance through collaboration with enterprise governance teams. In addition to engineering resilient solutions, he has created and maintained fully automated CI/CD pipelines using Jenkins, Terraform, and Docker on AWS to streamline deployments and optimize workflows. By leveraging Docker containers, Jitender successfully decomposed monolithic applications into microservices, improving scalability and developer efficiency. He also developed performance monitoring, observability, and analytics tools to replace legacy vendor-based systems, enabling swift production triage and root cause analysis for performance and availability issues. With expertise in building scalable, "shift-left" automated testing frameworks for functional and performance engineering, Mr. Jain consistently delivers solutions that prioritize quality, speed, and efficiency.

https://www.linkedin.com/in/jainjitender/

4:55 pm Salute to our speakers Special Guest

5:00 pm Happy Hour Sponsored by

We would like to thank our sponsors:

Gerald Cortright
Joseph Frankie III
Siemens Mobility
Bizztech

Thank You!

for joining us in San Diego.

We look forward to seeing you at our

Cruise Conference

May 19, 2026
Los Angeles Catalina Island Mexico
May 18-22, 2026, sailing

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