



Welcome

**Catalina Tech Conference
and Expo**

May 19, 2026, 8 am

Mike Brisbois, PE

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Speaker Line up

07:00 am Breakfast Buffet Catalina Style
08:00 am Announcement of all the speakers
08:05 am Christopher J. Pavese, P.E., CPM, CSP, MCLT, Gemba, Keynote
09:05 am Keerthi Vadhani Malarvannan, EV Batteries, Purdue University
09:30 am Brandi Sanders, Data Center Infrastructure, Hyper Solutions
09:55 am Darryl Palmer, Founder & Chair at Cultivation, IEEE Standards Association
10:20 am Mark Lipps, Principal & Consultant, Self
10:45 am Sweta Gupta, Ambassador, Universal Peace Federation
11:10 am Andrew Bui, SVP, Global Bus and Zero Emissions Lead, AECOM
11:35 am Sanya Mathura MLE, Strategic Reliability Solutions, Founder CEO
12:00 pm Prize Pack Give Away
12:05 pm Catalina Quantum of the Seas Lunch Buffet
1:00 pm Taisha Bezzo, Energy Storage Sales Executive
1:25 pm Nasrin Sabet - MASc Researcher in Electrical & Computer Engineering
1:50 pm Eric Moala-Liava'a, CEO Kingdom's Finest, AKANA LLC
2:15 pm Christa Peterson, Product Analysis Distribution Technology, NDC
2:40 pm Justin Darnall, Vice President of Engineering, ICEYE US
3:05 pm Denver Owens, Hydrogen, EV Infrastructure & Clean Tech Solar, Verdek
3:30 pm Johnathan Humphries, Business Development Lead Metric DCX
3:55 pm Michael Loggins CSM, CSPO, CAL, Award-Winning Executive IT Leader, Meta Strategy
4:20 pm Shahid Jamil, Electrical Safety Specialist, Cheniere Energy
4:45 pm James Riley, Digital Transformation Strategy, LightSpark Software
4:45 pm Collin McGee, Business Development Manager, HMI, SCADA Integrations
4:45 pm Cameron Aljilani, NC3 and Navy Solution Architect, Leidos
4:45 pm Karen Cahn, emerging brands and founders monetize, Self
4:45 pm Mehernosh Pithawalla, Founder, CEO New Digital IT Inc.
4:45 pm Anand Prakash Arya, GIS and EAM solutions Architect, Enterprise Utility Migrations
4:45 pm John Drayton, National Lead, Zero Emissions Mobility, Burns Engineering
4:45 pm Rupesh Kutte, CCM®, CDT®, CCCA®, ENV SP, Arcadis
4:45 pm Emmanuel Akpan, MBA, CSCP, Edwards Lifesciences
4:45 pm Bryan Clay, Olympic Gold Medalist, 2008 Beijing Olympics, Eat the Frog
4:45 pm Dillion Brown, CAD AI Control Panel Automation
4:45 pm Gary Gluck, Siemens
4:45 pm Karim Dasuki, Enabling Smart Cities Digital X-form, Federación Colombiana de Municipios
4:45 pm Evan Walls, USD Honors Integrated Engineering, Engineering Exchange Social Justice
4:45 pm Nihar Trivedi, Construction Project Manager, Swinerton
4:45 pm Renee Schneider, Director of Infrastructure and Roadway Sales Acuity Brands
4:55 pm Salute to the Speakers
5:00 pm Happy Hour



Christopher J. Pavese

Complexity is the enemy of scale. As an operational fixer, Mr. Pavese partners with mid-market organizations to strip away inefficiencies and build high-performance cultures that last. I don't just deliver reports; he goes to the 'Gemba' the real place where work happens—to identify the bottlenecks stalling your growth. With 20+ years of executive leadership and a foundation in Professional Engineering (PE), Chris specializes in transforming 'stuck' operations into streamlined, scalable systems. His approach at Gemba Services combines the analytical rigor of engineering with a deep focus on the people driving the process. How I help organizations as a Fractional Executive: Operational Excellence: He uses Lean Six Sigma and Cultural Scorecards to diagnose operational friction and implement data-backed road maps for improvement.

Engineering and Process Strategy: He provides PE-certified oversight to stabilize technical operations and ensure engineering strategy aligns with business goals. Leadership Development: He mentors emerging leaders and executives using DISC assessments to build communication clarity and resolve team conflict. Scalable Infrastructure: Mr. Pavese helps firms move from 'hero-based' success to 'process-based' success, ensuring the organization thrives long after my engagement ends.

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Improving Electric Vehicle Battery Lifespan with Active Cell Balancing

As the automotive industry transitions from fossil fuels to electric mobility, improving the efficiency, safety, and reliability of lithium-ion battery systems has become increasingly important. Electric vehicle battery packs consist of multiple cells connected in series and parallel, making uniform cell operation critical for optimal performance and longevity. Due to chemical and operational variations, differences in cell voltage and capacity naturally arise, leading to uneven charging and discharging that reduces usable energy and overall efficiency. This presentation explores the significance of active cell balancing, where battery monitoring systems and control algorithms redistribute energy from higher-voltage cells to lower-voltage cells to maintain voltage uniformity. By ensuring all cells operate at similar levels, active balancing improves energy utilization, reduces stress on individual cells, extends battery life, and enhances the overall performance and reliability of EV battery packs.



Keerthi Vadhani Malarvannan

Keerthi Vadhani Malarvannan, recently graduated with a master's degree in electrical engineering, with thesis research focused on "**Active Cell Balancing in Lithium-Ion Batteries**". I have worked as an Embedded Engineer at Caterpillar, contributing to machine software development at the application layer. I completed my bachelor's degree in electrical and Electronics Engineering through a sandwich program in 2022. My technical interests include battery management systems, embedded systems, and electric vehicle energy storage technologies.

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



Brandi Sanders

Brandi is a data center infrastructure sales project manager supporting custom, concise and confidential manufacturing on demand to meet AI and Hyperscale client demands.

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Darryl Palmer

Mr. Palmer operates at the exact intersection of theoretical engineering and factory-floor reality. Throughout his career in heavy industrial automation—currently serving as a Control Systems Team Lead at Caterpillar and a systems consultant—Darryl specialized in bridging legacy mechanical systems with modern, data-driven IoT networks, PLCs, and embedded systems. He knows what it takes to keep global supply chains moving and what Fortune 100 manufacturers actually need from their technology. However, as the industry rapidly modernizes with Edge AI and collaborative robotics, a massive "abstraction gap" has formed. We have incredible technology, but a

critical shortage of resilient, highly trained technicians and engineers who can physically deploy it. To solve this, he founded two sister organizations designed to engineer the future of the American workforce and global infrastructure: Cultivation Workforce Development His group is building the Midwest's premier talent pipeline for advanced manufacturing. Through his Mobile Innovation Lab and stationary training hubs, his group deploys industry-standard hardware (Edge AI, PLCs, and machine vision) directly to transition military veterans and underserved youth. His group does not just teach theory. They credential the next generation of technologists to modernize legacy assembly lines and secure domestic supply chains. The Cultivation Institute (The Think Tank) Technology moves faster than policy. The Institute is a 501(c)(3) research and policy think tank dedicated to addressing complex global challenges. From partnering with academic leaders to scaling public-imperative activities, working alongside IEEE to draft open, ethical engineering standards, the Institute ensures that our technological leaps are mathematically sound, ethically grounded, and publicly beneficial. Mr. Palmer's leadership philosophy: As an active leader in IEEE, he believes that engineering theory must be translated into physical reality. Whether he is upskilled in a team of incumbent mechanical engineers, mentoring university students, or organizing a standards committee, his goal remains the same: advancing technology for humanity by building the people behind the machines. Specialties: Industrial Control Systems (PLC/HMI) Edge AI & Machine Vision Non-Profit Leadership Workforce Development IEEE Standards & Ethics Embedded Systems (C++/Linux/ARM) Veteran Career Transition Let's build the next generation of technologists. Connect with me to discuss corporate upskilling partnerships, STEM volunteer opportunities, or infrastructure resilience research.

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



Mark Lipps

Mark has spent almost 30 years in the TV business starting out in news, then station mgmt., pitching TV shows for MTM and later Rysher Ent., and then early retirement after 18-years at the Fox Broadcasting Network managing the relationships with his network affiliated TV stations. In retirement he rebranded and re-energized our Manhattan Beach, CA, Chamber of Commerce. Currently, my wonderful wife and I purchased a farm in Northern CA that has a vineyard, orchard, event space, commercial kitchen and most recently rescued two mini pigs and a very large tortoise. His business strengths are developing creative growth strategies; connecting and negotiating to establish a mutual benefit between all parties; interpersonal communication skills and putting out positive energy.

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

10:45 am Sweta Gupta, Ambassador, Universal Peace Federation



Sweta Gupta

Gridless global.

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Andrew Bui

Mobility lead for AECOM Ventures, focused on emerging mobility technologies and how they will impact the planning, design, and construction of transportation infrastructure. Led technology initiatives involving Smart Cities, Connected and Automated Vehicles, Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure, and Hyperloop technologies.

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



Sanya Mathura MLE

Sanya is the Founder of Strategic Reliability Solutions Ltd based in Trinidad & Tobago and operates in the capacity of CEO and Senior Consultant. She works with global affiliates in the areas of Reliability and Asset Management to bring these specialty niches to her clients. Sanya possesses a strong engineering background with a BSc in Electrical & Computer Engineering and MSc in Engineering Asset Management. She has attained her MLE (Machinery Lubrication Engineer) certification from ICML (International Council of Machinery Lubrication) and is the first in her country to secure this certification albeit

the first female as well. She was also the first female in the world to earn the ICML VPR & VIM badges. No stranger to being the first, she is the first registered Machinery Lubricant Engineer with the Board of Engineering in Trinidad & Tobago as well as the only female instructor globally for Mobius Institute's Field Lubrication CAT I course. Sanya is an active member of several professional organizations, including ICML & STLE and writes technical papers for several organizations including Precision Lubrication Magazine & Reliable. She is also a sought-after speaker and has been presented at various conferences and seminars globally. She is an avid advocate for women in STEM. She has published books including, "Lubrication Degradation Mechanisms; A Complete Guide", "Lubrication Degradation; Getting into the Root Causes" co-authored with Bob Latino (both published by Taylor & Francis), "Machinery Lubrication Technician (MLT) I and II Certification Exam Guide First Edition" coauthored with Michael Holloway and "Preventing Turbomachinery Cholesterol - The Story of Varnish" coauthored with Greg Livingstone (both published by Industrial Press Inc.). She is also the series editor for the "Empowering Women in STEM" series published by CRC Press. The first book was launched in Dec 2022, "Empowering Women in STEM - Personal Stories and Career Journeys from around the world". The second, "Empowering Women in STEM - Working together to inspire the future" in March 2024. The third, in June 2025, "Empowering Women in STEM - Pioneering Paths to Shape the Future". Sanya's passion for excellence, coupled with her expertise in the field of engineering and reliability, has made her a respected and highly sought-after professional in the industry. Her dedication to providing exceptional service to clients and her commitment to staying up to date with the latest industry trends has earned her the respect of her peers and the admiration of her clients.

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1:00 pm Taisha Bezzo, Energy Storage Sales Executive



Taisha Bezzo

Ms Bezzo is a 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. Taisha is known for building strong national rep networks, leading high-performing sales teams, and accelerating revenue across new and emerging markets. She has worked alongside developers, EPCs, OEMs, ports, and utilities to bring advanced energy solutions to life and is always focused on market traction, technical credibility, and long-term partnerships.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/taisha-bezzo-52270538/>

1:25 pm Nasrin Sabet - MASc Researcher in Electrical & Computer Engineering | Smart Grid & Data Systems | Globalink Mentor – Mitacs



Nasrin Sabet

Ms. Sabet specializes in electrical power systems, smart grid and data systems.

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Eric Moala-Liava'a

Business owner and Entrepreneur. Trilingual CEO of AKANA LLC specializing in luxury outdoor living, Utah's leading paver company! Refinery operator at HF Sinclair Oil Refinery. Linebacker/running backs football coach at Layton Christian Academy. Oregon State University Alumni, Hawthorne High School Alumni.

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Business Analyst Professional. Highly experienced in team leadership, airline distribution technology, and software development lifecycle. Specialized knowledge in airline policies, fares, and ticketing. Christa takes great pride in the work she does, and she believes integrity is one of the most important qualities to have in the workplace.

Christa Peterson

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Justin Darnell

Engineering executive with 15+ years of experience leading organizations, technical strategy, and delivery across aerospace, defense, and advanced technology programs. Mr. Darnell brings a combination of executive leadership, software and systems engineering depth, and operational discipline to scale organizations, build high-functioning teams, and deliver mission-critical capabilities. His background includes leading multidisciplinary engineering teams across software, systems, product development, and operations in mission-driven environments. He is particularly energized by building strong organizations, developing leaders, improving execution, and helping teams translate strategy into real-world results. Across each stage of my career, the common thread has been mission success through strong leadership, technical rigor, and operational excellence.

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Denver Owens

Seasoned professional with over 20 years of experience in Engineering, Operations, and Leadership, including 12 years in military operations and leadership roles. Over a decade of expertise in the design, construction, and maintenance of Hydrogen and Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure. A dynamic and results-driven manager with a strong track record of leading innovation, streamlining operations, and overseeing complex projects within the energy and technology sectors. Demonstrated success in executing strategic initiatives, enhancing operational efficiency, and building high-performing, cross-functional teams. Recognized for developing disruptive technologies, driving continuous improvement, and fostering collaboration across organizational boundaries. Passionate about leveraging emerging technologies to deliver sustainable, forward-thinking business solutions.

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3:30 pm Johnathan Humphries, Business Development Lead Metric DCX



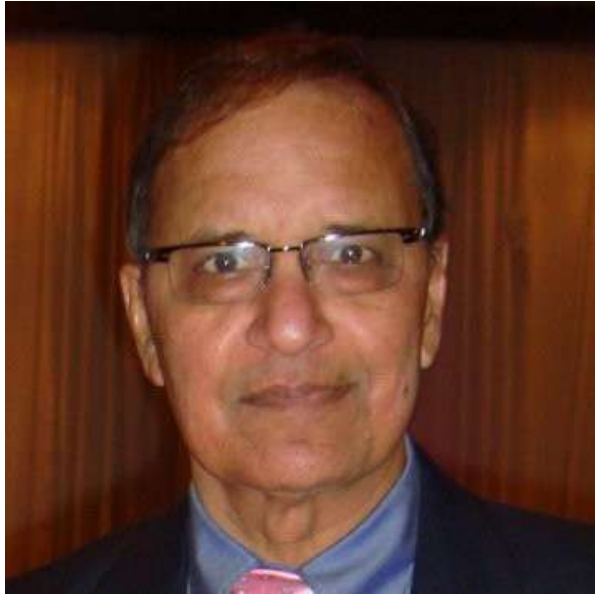
Johnathan Humphries



With 24+ years of experience as an IT leader, I have been integral to strategic business alignment, performance acceleration, customer success, & standardizing global IT operations. As an influential leader, I have effectively led 300+ IT professionals worldwide to steer the direction of the corporate vision concerning the critical need for modernized IT operations. It is my passion to utilize my visionary approach to consistently pioneer change, advocacy, & critical IT involvement while also focusing on marketplace positioning for accelerated ROI.

Michael Loggins

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/michael-loggins/>



Shahid Jamil

Mr. Jamil is an electrical safety specialist, electrical engineering, maintenance, reliability, Projects and Construction Support, Commissioning & Startup, Electrical Safety Specialties, Several years of experience with two global oil & gas companies and one LNG company in Electrical Safety, electrical design & upgrade, construction and commissioning support for electrical projects including high voltage substations ranging from 115000 to 480 V, large motors, and low and medium voltage switchgear and motor control centers; turnaround planning, supervision & execution support including repair, rewind and testing of transformers and large motors; technical support for maintenance and reliability, operation and troubleshooting of plant electrical power systems and equipment at

company's existing and new Chemical Plants and Refineries in US, Canada, Thailand & Singapore. Electrical Safety: Single point contact and resource for electrical safety for the companies I have worked for, developed four Electrical Safety Best Practices that are being used by several Refineries & Chemical Plants around the world, co-authored several electrical safety papers and received three "First Paper" & one "Honorable Mention" awards from IEEE/PCIC/USA, and one "Top Three Electrical Safety Presentation" award from IEEE Electrical Safety Workshop; developed process, tools & templates for and carried out the audit of electrical safety programs of several plants, developed training programs and carried out electrical safety training for over 2500 skilled workers in several countries; Arc Flash hazard studies; received "Green Card" from US Immigration Services for exceptional experience and expertise in electrical safety.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/shahid-jamil-73652824/>



James Riley

Mr. Riley is a Leader specialized in digital transformation, brand strategy, product innovation, and revenue growth. He builds data-driven, human-centered organizations —combining marketing and business intelligence with AI and big data analytics to turn insights into measurable results. Recognized as a clean-tech thought leader, I've led complex initiatives at Fortune 100 companies (e.g., IBM Global Consulting) and delivered fast, strategic wins for leading brands like Unilever, T-Mobile, TELUS, BC Hydro. Notable outcomes include launching the NFL's centralized mobile hub to unify fan engagement across channels, driving UX/UI knowledge, testing and

roadmaps for T-Mobile's Consumer Insights and CMO, and at Lightspark, deploying AI-powered analytics for banks, governments and cities through deep insights into energy, carbon and behavioral economics data. Career highlights: Saved \$27M for Unilever via contract negotiations and digital services standardization. Helped grow Microsoft's first media player market share by 40%. Modernized Disney Interactive Studios' gaming portal through leading a state-of-the-art BI system.

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

4:55 pm Salute to the Speakers

5:00 pm Happy Hour

We would like to thank our sponsors:

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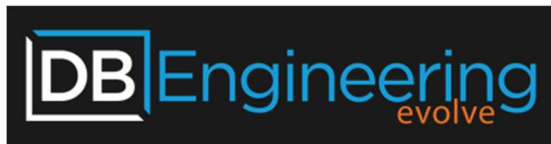
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Thank You!

for joining us in
Catalina Island

**We look forward to seeing you next time at our
Coeur d'Alene Tech Conference and Expo**