



Speakers & Topics (as of Jan 20, 2023)



Usama Ahmed

Transmission Solutions Manager, Shemar Power, Canada

Towards Ultimate Compaction of Overhead Transmission Lines: Integrating CICA & EGLA Technologies

Mr. Ahmed received his M.Sc. Degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Engineering and Technology Lahore, Pakistan. He started his professional work in the field of transmission lines and insulation design with NESPAK. In 2020, he was appointed Transmission Solutions Manager for composite insulated cross-arms and compact lines in Shemar Power (Canada). He is a member of several CIGRE and IEEE Working Groups.



Neelesh Arora

CEO, Epsilon Asia Group, India

Climate Change-Resilient Insulators: Design Optimization for Increased Transmission Reliability Based on Environmental Conditions in India

Mr. Arora is an expert in standardization and deployment of RTV high voltage insulator coatings for AC/DC applications up to 1200 kV and has contributed to introduction and adoption of this technology across India. He is co-author of the CIGRÉ WG B2.69 'Coatings for Power Networks' and has also been nominated by India to IEC 36/63432 "RTV Coatings for outdoor insulators". He has participated in over 150 RTV projects and this extensive field experience has given him expert knowledge of coating processes and related best practices. He has also authored many papers and lectured widely on this subject and served as a consultant to utilities. He is Indian Member to IEC 36 'RTV Coating on Insulators' (PT 63432) and sits on the Bureau of Indian Standards 'ETD-06 Insulator & Insulator Accessories'.



Samuel Arturo Asto Soto

Transmission Line Coordinator, Power Grid of Peru, Peru

Performance of Composite Insulators in Environments with Extreme Conditions: Pollution, Altitude, UV & Lightning

Mr. Asto Soto is an Electrical Engineer, graduated in 2000 from the National University of the Center of Peru (UNCP 2000) with a Masters of Business Administration from the University Ricardo Palma. He has detailed experience in management, planning and supervision of electrical maintenance and projects in mining, concentrating plants and high voltage electrical transmission systems. He is a member of the Live Working Group of the Regional Energy Integration Commission. His work experience includes high voltage maintenance in transmission lines, live working, corrosion and insulation asset management.



Puneeth Bhurat

Vijaya Sales Corporation, India

Application of Line Surge Arresters for Switching Overvoltages in UHV Transmission Systems

Mr. Bhurat completed his Bachelors in Electrical & Electronics Engineering from Vishveshwaraya Technological University and his Masters in Electrical Engineering from CPRI Research Center. He later worked as Jr. Research Fellow in the HV Div. of CPRI during which he performed insulation coordination studies on EHV & UHV transmission lines and analyzed application of line surge arresters. He was also involved in identifying suitable neutral grounding reactors for 765 kV transmission lines and in studies to determine surge arrester ratings for a large cable-connected distribution network. He has been an active member of IEEE and IEEE Power and Energy Society and has volunteered in technical conferences organized by both CPRI and IEEE.



David Cárdenas

Product Manager, Prolec-Celeco, Mexico

Improving Reliability of Distribution Class Arresters through Disruptive Innovations

Mr. Cárdenas received a B.S. from UANL University and an MBA in Energy from EOI School in Madrid, Spain. Over 15 years of product management, business development, marketing and innovation experience, he has developed a solid understanding of product needs and applications in distribution systems. As Product Manager, he presently collaborates in developing new products aimed at integrating innovative approaches to best meet utility sector needs and advancements.



William Chisholm

T&D Consultant, Canada

- 1. Balancing the Budget for Renovating Lines: Groundwires, OPGW, Insulation, Earthing & Arresters**
- 2. Selecting Insulators by Adapting & Calibrating Satellite & Ground-Based Measurements of Air Pollution**

Dr. Chisholm is an expert in the effects of adverse weather on overhead power lines, including lightning and grounding, icing on insulators and thermal rating. He has been an IEEE Fellow for a decade – a distinction given after his long career at Ontario Hydro and Kinectrics. He combines his consulting worldwide with teaching and writing for INMR as well as Wiley & McGraw Hill and also volunteers in the IEEE executive rotation as Chair and Past Chair of the PES T&D Committee. In 2017, he received the Claude de Turreil Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Field of Electrical Insulators.



Laura De Fina

R&D Expert for Bushings, GE Grid Solutions, Italy

- Comparing Composite & Porcelain High Voltage Dry Bushings for Severe Service Conditions**

Dr. De Fina received her M. S. Degree in Electrical Engineering from the Milano Polytechnic University in 2003. After graduation, she joined different companies in Energy and Automation business, working in technical area. Since 2017, she has been working as R&D Expert at GE Grid Solution for HVDC and RIP AC bushings and also in charge of development of HVDC bushings. She is member of the Italian Committee 36A - Bushings and is active in IEC Working Groups.



Michele de Nigris

Director, Sustainable Development & Energy Sources, RSE, Italy

- 1. Increasing Resilience of Underground Distribution Lines Against Heat Waves: Case Study from Milan, Italy**
- 2. Wildfires as Increasing Threat to Overhead Lines: Recent Experience in Italy**

Mr. de Nigris is Director of the Sustainable Development and Energy Sources Department of RSE – Research on the Energy System. An Electrical engineer, he actively worked in the transmission and distribution technologies sector at CESI and subsequently in RSE, before addressing main challenges related to the interaction of the energy systems with the environment. Active in the international context, he leads the European SetPlan Implementation Group on resilient energy networks and represents Italy in coordination committees of the International Energy Agency. He is actively involved in standardization as chair of the Committee “integrated energy systems” of the Italian Electrotechnical Commission.



Héctor de Santos Yubero

R&D Engineer, La Granja Insulators, Spain

- Diagnostic Techniques for Assessing Silicone-Coated Glass Insulators**

Mr. de Santos received his Electrical Engineering Degree from the Technical University of Madrid and later completed his M.Sc. in Industrial Engineering. He is currently concluding the Ph.D. degree at the ICAI Engineering School of the Comillas Pontifical University. After working for different Spanish utilities as project engineer in the field of power lines, he joined Verescence La Granja Insulators as approvals and process development engineer. He is Sr. Member of IEEE, member of CIGRÉ and IEC and contributes to several international Technical Committees and Working Groups within these bodies.



DING Yujian

Senior Engineer, High Voltage Department, China Electric Power Research Institute, China

- Altitude Correction for Air Gaps & Clean Insulators: Research Progress in China**

Dr. Ding has participated in extensive research on air gap discharges, high voltage test technology, live-line working, high altitude discharges, etc., As Convenor, he has led compilation of Chinese industry standards including GB/42001 dealing with methods for altitude correction for external insulation flashover voltage of high voltage power transmission projects. He has also participated in compilation of an IEEE standard and has served as member of CIGRE Working Groups D1.50, D1.61, B2.64.



Frédéric Dollinger

Area Sales & Marketing Manager, Haefely, Switzerland

- Best Practices for Bushing Installation & Diagnostics**

Mr. Dollinger received a Master's Degree in Mechatronics from the renowned French engineering school, INSA, and has worked for Haefely successively as Product & Marketing Manager and now Area Sales & Marketing Manager. His extensive travel to meet customers worldwide has allowed broad application experience and deep product knowledge. He specializes in the field of transformer test systems as well as in other applications with frequency converter-based technology, such as on-site cable testing with variable frequency. He is knowledgeable on the American standard, IEEE C57.12.90-1999, as well as on the European standard IEC 60076 (in addition to other related standards), for routine and type tests on power and distribution transformers.



Frédérick Dubé

Product Engineer for Arresters, Studies & Standards, Hydro Québec, Canada

IEC TC37: Major Developments in Standards for Substation & Line Surge Arresters

Mr. Dubé graduated from Laval University in Quebec in 2008 and started his career at Hydro-Quebec as a substation designer, initially involved in grounding (permanent and temporary), working methods and short-circuit management. He moved towards high voltage apparatus around 2010 and became the Product Engineer for arresters where he works in apparatus specifications, qualification and technical support. He is a member of l'Ordre des Ingénieurs du Québec (P. Eng.) and is involved in IEC TC37 where he has served as Convenor of MT10 since 2019.



Mohd Faris Ariffin

Specialist, Distribution Engineering Centre, Asset Management Dept., Distribution Network Div., Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB), Malaysia

Application of Line Lightning Protection Device onto 33 kV Overhead Lines with High Soil Resistivity to Mitigate Transient Interruptions Due to Lightning

Ir. Ts. Mohd Faris Ariffin earned a Masters in Electrical Engineering from UNITEN, Malaysia (2006) and before that graduated from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona with a BSc. in Engineering (Electrical). He has been working with TNB for 32 years within various Departments including Transmission Lines/Substations Maintenance, Distribution System Operator, SCADA & Telecontrol and Distribution Overhead Lines Standards & Engineering Practices with the current department since 2003. He is a registered Professional Engineer with practicing certificate with the Board of Engineers, Malaysia, a registered professional technologist with Malaysia Board of Technologists, ASEAN Chartered Professional Engineer, Certified Class 1 Professional Drone Practitioner. He is also a Member of the Institution of Engineers, Malaysia.



Edward Gulski

CEO, onsite hv solutions, Switzerland

Testing & Diagnosis of Long Length Power Cables of On/Offshore Wind Farms

Dr. Gulski, an IEEE Fellow, received his M.Sc. in information technology from Dresden Univ. of Technology, a Ph.D. from Delft Univ. of Technology and a Doctor Habilitatus from Warsaw Univ. of Technology. A former Professor at Poznan Univ. of Technology and most recently at Lodz Univ. of Technology, he is CEO of an organization of independent companies providing knowledge to power utilities. He has served as Chairman of 4 Cigré Working Groups and is presently Chairman IEEE Working Group PE/IC/F05W/400.4 P400.4, Chairman of IEEE PES ICC Sub G TNL and Swiss member of Cigré WG B1.38. He is author/co-author of 380 publications and 3 books on HV Diagnostics and Asset Management.



Igor Gutman

Sr. Specialist & Marketing Director, Independent Insulation Group, Sweden

Chair Session 1: Electrical Insulators for Overhead Lines & Substations: Design, Standards, Testing & Inspection

1. Evaluation of Recovery of Hydrophobicity of Composite Insulators: Test Methods Available
2. Progress in IEC Standardization of Test Methods for Pollution Testing of Composite Insulators
3. Advanced Pollution Modeling on Insulators: Verification by Direct Measurements & Service Experience

Dr. Gutman received his MSc and PhD in HV engineering from the Leningrad Polytechnic Institute and has experience covering 40 years. In 1994 he joined STRI where his main areas of activity included dimensioning and maintenance of insulation in clean and polluted environments; ageing characteristics and accelerated ageing tests. Now with Independent Insulation Group, he has published over 200 papers and is a Sr. Member of IEEE. He is also a member of Swedish IEC TC 36 "Insulators", Distinguished Member of CIGRE and active in working groups within CIGRE/IEE. He was 2012 recipient of the Claude de Tourreil Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Field of Electrical Insulators and also received IEC's 1906 Awards in recognition of service to technical standards.



Shakir Hafeez

General Manager & Head of Transmission Lines, National Engineering Services, Pakistan

1. Updated Results of Pilot Insulator Test Station
2. Corrosion of Transmission Line Material: Case Study from Pakistan

Mr. Hafeez obtained his BSc & MSc in Electrical Engineering at the University of Technology & Engineering in Lahore and over his career has had extensive experience in design and control of HV and EHV transmission line projects. He has supervised project planning and scheduling, including conceptual design, cost estimation and design of transmission lines and is an expert in preparing bid documents outlining drawing of towers, insulators, line hardware and accessories. His industry experience also includes inspection and type testing of transmission line material to ensure compliance with specifications. He is also responsible for conductor optimization and insulation coordination under applicable climatic conditions as well as isokeraunic and pollution levels.



Josué Daniel Hidalgo Quesada

Transmission System Asset Management, Costa Rican Electricity Institute, Costa Rica

Optimizing Surge Arrester Placement on HV Lines Using Probabilistic Analysis of Electromagnetic Simulation Data

Mr. Hidalgo Quesada obtained his Bachelor and Licentiate degrees in Electrical Engineering from the University of Costa Rica and is currently completing his Master's degree level in Business Administration, focused on finance. He works at ICE (Costa Rican Electricity Institute) in Power Line and Transmission System Asset Management with main area of interest in lightning performance of lines and financial analysis for improved decision-making in the power sector.



Hiroya Homma

Sr. Research Scientist, Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry (CRIEPI), Japan

Battling Pollution Problems on Overhead Lines in Japan: Recent Research at CRIEPI

Dr. Homma has over 30 years of professional experience in outdoor insulation and polymeric insulating materials. His main areas of interest include evaluation of surface degradation of polymeric insulators and high voltage testing of outdoor insulators. He is a member of IEC TC36 MT19 as well as TC112 WG5 and also serves as Chairman of IEC TC112 (Japanese National Committee). He is a Senior Member of IEEE and a Fellow of IEEJ.



HUANG Ruiping

Senior Engineer, High Voltage Department, China Electric Power Research Institute, China

Research on Altitude Correction of Pollution Flashover Voltage of UHVDC insulators

Dr. Huang has participated in a large number of research projects on pollution and pollution flashover characteristics, including high-altitude discharges and altitude correction factors for insulators. He has worked in determining the pollution level affecting AC/DC UHV transmission lines in China and contributed to recommendations for suitable insulation configurations. He has also carried out experimental studies on altitude correction of insulator pollution flashover and is considered one of the country's foremost experts in this area.



Nadiah Salwi Hudi

Principal Engineer, Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB), Malaysia

Lightning Performance of 132 kV, 275 kV & 500 kV Overhead Transmission Lines in Malaysia

Dr. Nadiah has been working in the field of overhead transmission lines for 16 years, with main interest in improvement of lightning and grounding issues. Her current role includes assessing and evaluating new overhead line products/technology, reviewing line performance and providing technical support to operational teams. She has been a member of CIGRE Study Committee B2 since 2019 and has also been active in the AORC-CIGRE B2 Panel Group since 2014.



Lars Jonsson

Senior Specialist, Hitachi Energy, Components, Sweden

Chair Session 4: Bushing Technologies, Standards, Condition Monitoring & Service Experience

High Voltage Bushings: 100 Years of Technical Advancement

Mr. Jonsson has 35 years of professional experience working with high voltage bushings. This includes design, research & development, engineering solutions, applications, and testing. During the past two decades, he has been actively involved in developing methodologies and interpretation guidelines for condition assessments. This includes a large number of analysis of service-aged bushings and failure investigations of the different insulation concepts used in AC as well as in DC applications, ranging from 36 kV to 1200 kV. He has authored many articles and conference proceedings on related subjects and serves as Convenor of the IEC maintenance team for bushing standards since 2013 as well as Chairman of the IEC Technical Committee since 2017.



S. Gobi Kannan

Specialist Engineer, Grid Solution Expertise Dept. Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB), Malaysia

Evaluation of Bushing Performance for Shunt Reactor & GIS Connected Transformer Applications in the ASEAN

Mr. Kannan holds a Bachelors of Electrical Engineering and a Masters of Power Engineering and is responsible for new technology assessment, diagnostics, and equipment performance improvement for the transformer/reactor unit at TNB. A Registered Professional Engineer and an ASEAN Registered Electrical Engineer with TNB's Grid Division, he is also a CIGRE A2 Working Group member representing the Malaysia National Committee. He is currently in charge of design, assessment, consultation, failure analysis, and specification development as a product expert.



Jan Lachman

Director, EGU-HV Laboratory, Czech Republic

1. Artificial Pollution Testing: Aspects To Be Considered **2. Interface Testing on Polymeric Insulators**

Dr. Lachman graduated from the Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Electrical Engineering where he later received his PhD degree. After graduation, he joined EGU-HV Laboratory as a test engineer. He has also had experience as a design engineer when working abroad. He is active in IEC/CIGRE Working Groups and represents the Czech Republic in SC D1.



Henrik Löfås

Engineering Manager for Bushings, Hitachi Energy, Sweden

Impact of VFT on Bushings & Necessary Protection When Using On-line Monitoring

Dr. Löfås earned his PhD and a M. Sc. Degrees from Uppsala University, Sweden and has had 10 years professional experience in the area of bushings, including design, R&D, engineering solutions and testing. He started as a scientist in the corporate research organization and later moved to engineering where he has been closely involved in failure investigations and questions related to condition assessment of aged bushings. He is a member of the PT 36414 Working Group within IEC TC 36 as well as the newly initiated CIGRE WG A2.68.



Vasudev Nagaraju

Consultant to GCC Electrical Testing Laboratory, Saudi Arabia & Power Grid Corp., India

Pollution Mapping & Dimensioning of Insulators for Transmission Lines in India

Dr. Nagaraju graduated in Electrical Engineering from Bangalore University and later served as Lecturer in RV College of Engineering until 1984. He completed his post-graduate work on power systems from Mysore University and received his Ph.D. from Bangalore University in 1999. He joined the Central Power Research Institute (CPRI) in 1987 and retired as Additional Director. Now a Consultant, his area of specialization includes design of external insulation from the viewpoint of pollution as well as ageing characteristics of polymeric insulators under AC & DC voltages. He has participated in developing porcelain insulators for the highest pollution severity and has headed the initiative in pollution mapping of India. He also has experience in evaluating RTV-coated insulators and contributed to current relevant IEEE standards. A senior member of IEEE, he has authored over 150 technical articles and acts as contributor to the Bureau of Indian Standards.



Boris Nisslé

Head of HV Laboratories, MGC Moser Glaser, Switzerland

1. Best Practices for Bushing Installation & Diagnostics 2. Simplifying Interchangeability of Transformer Bushings through Dimensional Standardization: IEC Work in Progress

Mr. Nisslé graduated with a Master of Sciences from the TUD (Technische Universität Darmstadt) and an Engineering Degree from ENSEA (Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Electronique et de ses Applications). He joined MGC Moser-Glaser in 2011 in the R&D Department where he was responsible for the electrical, thermal and mechanical design of capacitive-graded RIP bushings. He has organized and attended all types of tests performed on transformer bushings for over 12 years and has been involved in different bushing and busbar failure investigations once he became Head of the HV-laboratories in 2018. He has been a member of IEC Working Groups TC36/SC36A, JWG7, JMT9 and JAHG8 since 2019.



Marco Nosilati

R&D and Engineering Manager, GE Grid Solutions, Italy

Pollution Test Results on Dead Tank Circuit Breakers with Polymeric Housings

Mr. Nosilati is an Electrical Engineer, graduated at the University of Padova with a Masters thesis in collaboration with the Helsinki University of Technology. He started his work experience in 2009 as R&D Test Engineer in Areva and he is currently the Technology Leader of air-insulated disconnectors in GE Grid Solutions. He is holder of several patent applications linked mainly to HV equipment and technological solutions for HVDC applications. He has served as a member of IEC as well as ad hoc Working Groups for DC switchgear.



Ertugrul Partal

Technology & Hardware Manager, ADM Elektrik, Turkiye

Effective Lightning Mitigation on Unshielded 36 kV Distribution Line in Turkey Applying Externally Gapped Line Arresters

Mr. Partal graduated from Teesside University in the field of Electrical Engineering and completed his post-graduate degree in Advanced Manufacturing Systems at this same university. He worked as a Power Systems Engineer at EDF Energy Networks Branch, one of the Power Distribution System Operators in England and later at National Grid Electricity Transmission as a Senior Power Systems Specialist, also serving as Department Head of the System Technical Performance. He continued his career at Turkish Electricity Transmission Corporation. Currently, he is member of Cigre WG C4.67, representing ADM electricity distribution company. His expertise lies in insulation coordination (lightning protection), grounding systems, and steady-state power quality.



Armando Pastore

Technology Leader, GE Grid Solutions, Italy

Pollution Design of Outdoor HVDC-UHVDC Bushings

Mr. Pastore received his Mechanical Engineering Master's Degree from the University of Naples Federico II. After graduation, he began his career in R&D and technology in the automotive and railway sectors. In 2012, he joined the power grid business working for Alstom Grid as R&D Mechanical Engineer for product industrialization of through-wall & transformer bushings with special focus on HVDC applications. Since 2015, he has been at GE Grid Solution covering different roles in engineering manufacturing, production and technical manager for high voltage bushings and relevant technologies.



Poorvi Patel

Manager, Strategic Insight, Technology Innovation, EPRI, United States

Dielectric Frequency Response (DFR): A Novel Diagnostic Tool for Bushings

Dr. Patel has many years of experience in transformers and transformer accessories such as bushings, including their online monitoring, forensics and diagnostics. She has also researched on how 24/7 monitoring of assets could be performed with a substation inspection robot. Poorvi has been a member of the PES of the IEEE since 2007 and is actively involved in the work of the IEEE/PES Transformers Committee. She is the key contributor of the C57.161 DFR Guide, C57.12.200 DFR Guide for bushings and is currently the Sub-Committee Chair of the IEEE Dielectric Tests. She is Vice-Chair in the revision of IEEE Monitoring Guide C57.143 and IEEE SFRA guide C57.149 and has also been a key contributor & TF-leader in the Cigre A2.53 SFRA Guide.



Alberto Pignini

T&D Expert Consultant, Italy

Estimating AC & DC Pollution Requirements: Comparing Statistical & Simplified IEC Approaches

Dr. Pignini received a Doctoral Degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Milan. He worked for more than 35 years at CESI, first as a researcher, then as Research Manager and finally as Division Director, responsible for a number of aspects of HV electrical system, including environmental impact and generation. He is a Distinguished Member of CIGRE, Fellow of IEEE and active in various WG and Committees at these bodies. Recipient of the 2015 Claude de Tourreil Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Field of Electrical Insulators, he acts as consultant to international clients and has also served as expert Contributor to INMR for more than 10 years.



Julius Purnama

Electrical Engineering Consultant, FPL (Italy), Teslatarna & Wijaya Karya Industri & Konstruksi, Indonesia

Case Studies of Lightning Disturbances on Java-Madura-Bali Transmission Lines & Performance Improvement

Dr. Purnama earned his PhD in Materials Science in the Physics Department of Universitas Indonesia. In addition to his consulting activities, he has worked with Wika NGK Insulators and, more recently, served as Visiting Lecturer in the Mechanical Engineering Graduate Program of the Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS).



Ankit Saboo

Executive Director, Elektrolites (Power), India

Experience-Driven Improvements in Surge Arrester Performance through Short Circuit Testing

Mr. Saboo is an Engineer from BITS Pilani and Purdue University in Indiana, USA. He has experience covering more than 10 years with traction systems - having hands-on experience in designing arresters for traditional 1x25 kV, new age 2x25 kV systems as well as metro rail systems. He has conducted studies across India at sites to identify problem areas and contributed towards a more reliable traction network. He holds 2 patents for switchgear products developed in India.



Mario Augusto Caetano dos Santos

Maintenance Engineering Division, Itaipu Binacional, Brazil

New Approach to Diagnose ZnO Surge Arresters Combining Resistive Leakage Current & Infrared Inspection

Mr. Santos received his BSc in Electrical Engineering from UNIDERP, Brazil in 2010 and his MSc in Technology Development from LACTEC Institute, Brazil in 2017. He joined AES Corporation as Area Maintenance Coordinator for distribution power grid in 1998 and later Eletrosul-Eletrbras, focusing on maintenance of high voltage equipment. Since 2011, he works in the Maintenance Engineering Division of Itaipu Binacional where he is responsible for managing high voltage assets. He is Secretary of CIGRÉ Study Committee A3 (Brazil) and Coordinator of the Technical Group for Substation Equipment – Association of Brazilian Power Transmission Companies.



Brian D. Sparling

Senior Technical Advisor, Dynamic Ratings, Canada

Unusual Bushing Failure Modes Detected with Continuous Online Monitoring

Mr. Sparling is a Sr. Member of IEEE and has decades of experience in the field of power and distribution transformers. Over the last 30 years, he has been involved in all aspects of online monitoring/diagnostics and condition assessment of power transformers. He has authored or co-authored more than 35 technical papers, including columns in Transformers Magazine and he has also contributed to many Guides and Standards with the Canadian Electricity Association, the IEEE Transformers Committee and CIGRE A2 Transformers Committee.



James Taylor

Sr. Principal Specialist Surge Arresters, Hitachi Energy, Sweden

IEC TC37: Major Developments in Standards for Substation & Line Surge Arresters

Mr. Taylor received his Bachelor of Engineering in 1986 and has held various engineering positions in his career with ASEA, ABB and Hitachi Energy. In his current role as Senior Principal Specialist for high voltage surge arresters in Ludvika, Sweden, he is working with technical support, application consultancy and product development. He is the current Convenor of IEC TC37/MT4 and actively participates in multiple IEC and IEEE Standards committees for surge arresters and other electrical apparatus.



Vid Voncina

Head of R&D, Izoelektr, Slovenia

Remote Monitoring & Advanced Analysis of Surge Arresters & Power Grids

Dr. Voncina earned his Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering at the University in Maribor and continued his education in 2016 when he enrolled in the PhD program in the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, which he completed at the end of 2021. He currently holds the position of Head of R&D at Izoeletro.



Wallace Vosloo

Corporate Specialist High Voltage Engineering, Eskom, South Africa

1. Case History of an Insulator End-Fitting Failure That Was Not 2. Power Utility Perspective on Site Pollution Severity Assessment

Dr. Vosloo is a distinguished international expert in the field of electrical insulation. Over a career spanning decades at one of the world's largest power utilities, he has presented many training courses in the field and also authored over 100 papers on high voltage insulators. His published texts include: "The Practical Guide to Outdoor High Voltage Insulators", co-authored by Roy Macey and Dr. Claude de Tourreil, and "High Voltage Engineering Practice and Theory" along with Dr. Holtzhausen. He is recipient of the SAIEE President's Award for contribution to development of high voltage insulator research, investigation capabilities and standards in South Africa as well as the Claude de Tourreil Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement in Field of Electrical Insulation. Dr. Vosloo is active in several national and international working groups.



ZHOU Jun

Vice Chief Engineer of High Voltage Department, China Electric Power Research Institute & Director of Tibet Test Base Management Office, China

Research Progress on Outdoor Insulators & Insulator Technology in China

Dr. Zhou has had many years experience in high voltage outdoor insulation and insulator technology and has headed or participated in numerous research projects in this field. These have included such topics as operation of composite suspension and post insulators, pollution impact on insulation, application of bushings, high altitude discharges, etc., As Convenor, he has also led the compilation of several industry standards, including China AC 1000 kV composite insulator national standards GB/T 26218.4. He participated in the compilation of three IEEE standards and has served as member of CIGRE Working Groups D1.44, D1.45, B2.57, D1.58, D1.59. Currently, he serves as a member of the IEC 60815 and IEC 62217 standards writing groups.



Raouf Znaidi

T&D Expert, Tunisia

HV Insulator Coatings in Severe Service Conditions: Pollution Accumulation & Hydrophobicity

Mr. Znaidi has had a long career at STEG, the power grid operator in Tunisia, where he was responsible for setting up insulator test stations across the country. Through this work he has become an expert on the comparative performance of different insulator types and designs in severe service environments. He has visited power companies across the globe reporting on service problems as well as remedial solutions using RTV coatings to combat pollution flashover. He is active in relevant CIGRE Working Groups.
