

**UTILITIES TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL – REGION 6  
(MID-CENTRAL UTILITIES TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL)  
ANNUAL MEETING  
March 19-21, 2018**

Doubletree by Hilton 10100 College Blvd. Overland Park KS 66210 (913-451-6100)

Premier Sponsor: SNC Lavalin HPD-Telecommunications

Gold Sponsor: 4RF & Aviat Networks

**Monday, March 19, 2018**

- 7:00-9:00 AM **Exhibit Setup-Ballroom**
- 8:00 AM-4:00 PM **Registration-Ballroom Foyer**
- 8:00-9:00 AM **Breakfast**  
Member and Vendor Introductions at Breakfast  
*(For registered members and vendors. You need to make a reservation on the advance registration form.)*
- 9:00 AM-12:00 PM **Exhibits Open-Ballroom**
- 12:00 PM-1:00 PM **Luncheon Sponsored by Ciena**  
*(For registered members and vendors. Tickets available for spouse and/or children.)*
- 1:00 PM-5:00 PM **Exhibits Open-Ballroom**
- 2:30 PM **Ice Cream Break Sponsored by RAD**
- 3:30 PM **Putting Challenge Sponsored by Ericsson**
- 3:30-5:00 PM **Cash Bar (Located in Exhibit Area - Bar Vendor Tickets can be purchased ahead of time through Mallory Wetta at the Doubletree)**
- 6:15 PM-8:30 PM **Annual UTC Region 6 All Vendor Sponsored Dinner Event**  
*(For registered members and vendors – spouse and/or children tickets available. Transportation - motor coaches will depart at 5:45 from front entrance of Doubletree)*

**Tuesday, March 20, 2018 (Open Session)**

- 7:00 AM-4:00 PM **Registration-Ballroom Foyer**
- 7:00 AM-8:00 AM **Continental Breakfast Sponsored by TC Communications**
- 8:00 AM **Welcome – Melvin Charuvilayil, Chairman MCUTC**
- 8:00 AM-9:50 AM **UTC National Leadership and Policy/Advocacy updates by Matt Schnell, Immediate Past Chairman and Sharla Artz, Vice President, Gov't Affairs, Policy and Cybersecurity**

Session will cover UTC National Leadership address and UTC Policy/Advocacy updates including Legal/Regulatory issues on spectrum, IP Transitions, security, and more. The following questions are some of the information that will be discussed. What is the FCC planning for the frequency bands in which you operate? What is the status of the proceedings you are worried about? What are Congress and the Federal agencies doing to help critical infrastructure communications? In this session you will get an overview of what the UTC is doing and how we read the landscape for your communication systems, including the status of the legislative work and the drive toward an infrastructure spectrum allocation.

- 9:50 AM-10:00 AM **Break Sponsored by ECI Telecom**

- 10:00 AM-10:50 AM **CyberSecurity on Legacy Systems by: Robert Landavazo, Belden**

This discussion will explain how legacy systems in aging power plants and substations are becoming more and more vulnerable due to the interconnected world of IP and the increase of cyber attacks. Learn from one who comes from a utility background, and for several years had responsibility for protecting this

infrastructure. Robert will share from personal experience how to successfully leverage tools and best practices to mitigate the threat of potential attacks to legacy systems in utility OT networks.

**11:00 AM-11:50 AM Predictive Fiber Monitoring for Aging Optical Networks for Utility and Power Companies by: Troy Veitenheimer, NTest & Chrissy Carr, Burns & McDonnell**

Power and Utility companies have developed complex command and control centers that are interconnected with highly reliable fiber optic cables. Utilizing the traditional reactive response to an outage takes hours to find the location of a fiber break. Many companies are utilizing remote fiber test systems (RFTS) to locate the problem in minutes and reduce mean time to repair (MTTR) by over 70%. The cabling of many fiber optics early adopters has been deployed and in operation for more than 25 years, a testament to the distinct advantages of optical fiber. By utilizing a proactive fiber maintenance process based on a remote fiber monitoring system, utilities significantly improve network reliability, predict long term fiber integrity, reduce MTTR, and improve operational efficiency of the network.

**12:00 PM-1:00 PM Luncheon Sponsored by Access Spectrum LLC**

**1:00 PM-1:50 PM Ameren SDN Implementation**

Ameren will give an overview of their implementation of SEL's SDN platform within their production network.

**2:00 PM-2:50 PM Spotlight Vendor - SNC Lavalin**

Topic TBD.

**2:50 PM-3:00 PM Break**

**3:00 PM-3:50 PM Grounding Practices for Communication Sites by Ben Heinig, Transector Grounding & Protection Services**

A high-integrity grounding system within the telecommunications industry is the single most effective means of assuring quality power distribution with a minimum of interference. Understanding how the key elements of grounding systems function and how to solve common problems is essential to keeping these systems operating at peak performance. Attendees of this practical overview will learn about grounding subjects including grounding electrode systems, single point grounding, isolated, ring and halo grounds, as well as tower grounding practices and site bonding.

**4:00 PM-4:50 PM NERC Low Roundtable by: Matt Schnell, NPPD**

The session will outline the NERC Low Impact BES Cyber System (LIBCS) requirements and enforcements dates and talk about examples of implementation ideas, decisions, and resolutions. The session will also go into a roundtable discussion of other solutions, work with UTC at a regional or even national level on solutions, and general differences between NERC auditing regions.

**6:30 PM-8:30 PM Tuesday Night Dinner Sponsored by Nokia**

*(For registered members and vendors – spouse and/or children tickets available. Transportation - motor coaches will depart at 6:15 from front entrance of Doubletree)*

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

7:00AM-8:00AM Continental Breakfast – Members Only

8:00AM-10:00AM (Closed Session – Members Only)

Round table discussion of various company projects

#### **MCUTC Business Meeting**

- Secretary Report – Doug Pruessner
- Treasurer Report – Matt Holthe
- Old Business – Melvin Charuvilayil
- New Business – Melvin Charuvilayil
- Nomination Committee – Melvin Charuvilayil
- Election of Officers – Melvin Charuvilayil
- Remarks of Incoming Chairman – Jared Pixley
- Drawing of Door Prizes
- Adjournment

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PROGRAM** – The program has been designed for all communications professionals including managers, engineers, technicians and vendors.

**ROOM RESERVATIONS** are made by calling the hotel at 913-451-6100. We have a block of rooms and the rate is \$107.00 per night.

**VENDORS** – Vendors have been invited to display equipment on Monday, March 19, 2018, from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM. On Monday, all vendors sponsor the Monday dinner event. Vendors may participate in all meetings except the closed session on March 21, 2018.

**RESERVATIONS NEEDED FOR MEAL FUNCTIONS** – Please make your meal function reservations on the advance registration form.

**ADDITIONAL MEAL TICKETS** – Tickets for spouse and/or children are available and may be ordered on your advance registration form.

**CLOSED MEETINGS** – Those sessions held on Wednesday morning are closed and may be attended by UTC members only.

**PDH CREDITS** – *Tuesday's session will count for 8.0 Personal Development Hours. Anyone wishing to receive a certificate for these PDH's may sign up at the Annual Meeting.*