

Preliminary Agenda

Thursday, February 27th

7:00AM **Registration & Breakfast**

8:00 – 8:15AM **Welcome Remarks**

8:15 – 9:15AM **Joint Utilization of Utility Fiber Infrastructure**

Utility right-of-way's with optical infrastructure can be an ideal communications pathway for a variety of external customers. However, joint utilization of these pathways can be an intimidating venture for a valuable investment. This presentation will cover challenges and best practices in leasing dark fibers.

Speakers **Mike Unser, OSP Engineer - Salt River Project**
Carson Joye, Applications Engineer - AFL

9:15 – 9:30AM **Networking Break**

9:30 – 10:30AM **Utility Benefits and the Impacts of 5G**

The impact of 5G on utility customers and grid modernization will be an important area of focus for utilities. There are many areas where utilities are best positioned to develop new revenue streams from 5G. This session will focus on how utilities will benefit from 5G as well as how they may be impacted by 5G.

Speakers: **Eric O'Brien, Manager of Utility Relations - Crown Castle**
Mitch Simcoe, Director of Industry Marketing - Ciena

10:30 – 11:30AM **Leveraging 3rd Party Service Providers in an Evolving, Technology driven Utility Environment**

This session will address how Santee Cooper partnered with Buford Goff & Associates to replace its obsolete analog 900MHz trunking system. Emphasis will be placed on the key takeaways and lessons learned with how a communications technology consultancy added process and structure to a multi-year successful project.

Speakers: **Tom Perry, Regional Representative – UTC (formerly with Santee Cooper)**
Darrell Clark, Senior Consultant – Buford Goff & Associates, Inc.

11:30AM – 12:00PM **Region 7 Member Meeting. Core Members Only**

Utility Technology Forum – Preliminary Agenda Cont.

12:00 – 1:45PM Networking Lunch with Exhibitors

2:00 – 2:45PM UTC Leadership Address

Presented by: Greg Angst, UTC’s Chairman of the Board/CenterPoint Energy

2:45 – 3:30PM Federal Advocacy Update

Presented by: Brett Kilbourne, VP of Policy and General Counsel - UTC

3:30 – 4:30PM State of the Union Utility Presentations

The State of the Union Presentation is an opportunity to give an update on staff, projects, and plans taking place at each utility. The presentations are generally more specific to the telecom and IT areas, but interesting and major projects in other departments will often be discussed as well. The presentations are a good way to promote discussion between utilities about ongoing projects, lessons learned, etc.

Speakers: Region 7 officers and additional utility representatives TBD

4:30 – 6:30PM Networking Reception with Exhibitors

Friday, February 28th

7:00AM Registration & Breakfast

8:00 – 9:00AM Smart City Business Development Strategy Session

A Business Development division of a utility is looking at being an innovative player in the utility and smart city world, thus being at the forefront where they own and control the structures (Smart Poles/ Smart Light Poles) and serve as a neutral host for Carriers, Municipalities, Public Safety and other entities.

Services on these Smart Poles could include:

- 4G/5G connectivity
- LED lighting
- Digital signs/message boards
- Weather stations
- WiFi
- Gunshot detection
- Traffic cameras
- Security cameras
- Surface temperature monitoring
- Automated parking attendant

Utility Technology Forum – Preliminary Agenda Cont.

This Business Development division is proud to be empowering itself as a "thought leader" within the whole utility company and hopes to create a business model that can be replicated by the other operating companies under this specific utility.

Moreover, with its relationship with Tessco this Business Development division is able to achieve economies of scale by consolidating smart pole, IoT, and other connectivity solutions and products from one source.

Speaker: Tessco representative TBD

9:00 – 10:00AM Understanding 5 Key Network Trends Driving a Grid in Transformation

The landscape of utility communication networks is rapidly evolving as utilities respond to critical challenges such as increasing consumer demand and the growing frequency, impact, and cost of natural disasters. In fact, over the past five years, 87% of consumers were impacted by some form of disaster. Meanwhile, utilities are working to improve service and sustainability through investments in technologies like AMI and Distribution Automation, but how are utilities choosing the “right” networks? Join this session to learn about five key network communication trends along with the business and technical requirements that are shaping the next era of distribution grid infrastructure. Presenters will share findings of recent industry research that explores how utilities are deploying advanced communications networks to connect Industrial IoT (IIoT) devices as part of grid modernization efforts. Hear real-world examples of how utilities and cities are using IIoT-connected solutions to enable quicker disaster mitigation and recovery, improved safety and more efficient grid operations.

Speakers: Entergy Rep TBD
John Lampe, Senior Business Development - Itron

10:00 – 10:15AM Networking Break

10:15 – 11:15AM Panel Discussion – Telecom Documentation – Challenges and Opportunities

11:15AM – 12:15PM Modernization of SCADA Systems or Data Analytics Drives Operational Excellence

11:45 – 12:15PM Roundtable Discussion & Wrap Up