Region 3 2024 Meeting
The Madren Conference Center at Clemson University
March 5-6 – event dates
March 4 – Utility only tour
March 6 – exhibit date

Meeting Agenda

Monday, March 4th

2:00 PM **AFL Plant Tours**

Utility attendees are invited to tour one of AFL's plants in Duncan, SC. RSVP is required and space is limited. For more information and to RSVP, click here. *Please note the tour is open to utility attendees only.*

Tuesday, March 5th

7:30 AM **REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST FOR ALL ATTENDEES**

8:00 AM **CALL TO ORDER, OPENING REMARKS, Housekeeping notes, & Welcome Message**

8:30 AM **UTC CEO Address**

Speaker: **Rusty Williams, President & CEO, UTC**

9:30 AM **BREAK**

10:00 AM **Georgia Power & Diamond Communication**

Many analysts believe 2024 will be a big year for small cell expansion because operators need to focus their efforts on densifying their 5G networks and filling in coverage gaps with small cells. In addition, some believe the need for more FWA capacity will also drive more small cell deployments. This session will look at the current status of small cells and also explore some of the obstacles to their deployment, such as permitting and power.

Speaker: **Keith Williams, Telecom (Colocation) Manager, Georgia Power**
Dan Turnpaugh, VP Strategic Partnerships, Diamond Communication

11:00 AM **Lunch**

12:30 PM **CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

12:45 PM **UTC COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1:15 PM **State of the Union Utility Presentations**
Justin Hardy, Telecom Engineer, Southern Company
Casey Harris, Senior IT Telecom Analyst, Duke Energy
Lee Ayers, VP Engineering, Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc.

1:45 PM **AI Panel Session**

2:45 PM **Break**

******* THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING IS FOR UTC UTILITY MEMBERS ONLY *******

3:15 PM **REGION 3 BUSINESS & MEMBERS MEETING**

5:00 PM **Networking Reception**

Wednesday, March 6th

7:30 AM **REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST FOR ALL ATTENDEES**

8:30 AM **INTRODUCTION OF TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS**

8:45 AM **Welcome: Clemson University**

9:45 AM **A Strategic Evolution to Packet-Based Timing: Leveraging Precision Time Protocol Across Your Network**

Southern Company faced the challenge of a SONET to packet network transition and together with Syncworks and Burns & McDonnell, designed and deployed a new MPLS system to provide system-wide transport for critical applications. This initiative introduced stringent new timing requirements and mandated a departure from the frequency BITS clocks traditionally used to synchronize TDM environments. To provide the necessary accuracy and traceability, Southern Company deployed Precision Time Protocol (IEEE 1588 PTP), Synchronous Ethernet (SyncE), and Network Time Protocol (NTP) synchronization sources to provide frequency and time of day for the MPLS, SouthernLinc LTE, and corporate IT networks. While the enablement of MPLS was the catalyst for IEEE-1588 PTP, it became clear that a highly accurate and reliable packet timing source could be broadly utilized across the network. This session will explore the various use cases and mutual benefits of packet-based timing, including next-gen transport, mitigation of GPS vulnerabilities and Grid timing backup from a secure telecom core. Learn how to fully leverage your timing investments, plan for emerging applications and navigate the various stakeholders that will come to rely on your clocks.

Speakers: **Justin Hardy, Telecom Engineer, Southern Company**
Rob Jodrie, Technical Support Engineer, Syncworks

Matthew Kitchen, Senior Electrical Engineer, Burns & McDonnell

10:45 AM **BREAK**

11:15 AM **Fiber: The Path to the Future and the Tools to Get You There**

There are various drivers for why additional bandwidth is needed in our infrastructure today and those drivers are helping to shape our future. Fiber is the vehicle that enables these new technologies to be feasible, whether it connects to equipment capable of communicating with, or directly to an end device. AFL will present tools available today to aid in achieving the future as well as highlight strategic decisions to consider during the development of your system.

Speaker: **Steven Kranz, Commercial Manager, AFL**

12:15 PM **LUNCH**

1:30 PM **Navigating AI in Utilities: Identifying and Mitigating Key Risks**

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into utilities has the potential to revolutionize operations, enhance efficiency, and improve decision-making. However, with these advancements come inherent cybersecurity risks that demand careful consideration. This presentation aims to illuminate the key risks associated with the adoption of AI in the utilities sector, offering insights into potential vulnerabilities and outlining strategies to mitigate these threats effectively, such as:

- Automated Attacks: AI can automate the execution of attacks, such as phishing campaigns, brute-force attacks, or malware propagation. This allows attackers to scale their operations and target a larger number of individuals or systems.
- Adversarial Machine Learning: Hackers may use AI to generate adversarial examples that can bypass machine learning-based security mechanisms. This involves manipulating input data to deceive AI systems, making them less effective in detecting malicious activities.
- Enhanced Social Engineering: AI can be used to analyze large datasets and social media profiles to create more convincing and targeted social engineering attacks. This could involve creating more realistic phishing emails or impersonating individuals with greater accuracy.
- Automated Exploitation of Vulnerabilities: AI-driven tools can scan and identify vulnerabilities in systems more quickly than traditional methods. Hackers can use AI to automate the discovery and exploitation of vulnerabilities, leading to faster and more efficient attacks.

This presentation aims to provide utilities professionals with a comprehensive understanding of the risks associated with AI adoption and empower them with practical strategies to enhance cybersecurity resilience. By fostering awareness and facilitating proactive risk mitigation measures, utilities can harness the benefits of AI while safeguarding critical infrastructure against emerging threats.

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Speaker:	**Simon Hill, Head of Legal and Compliance, Certes Networks** **Ken Campbell, MBA, President, Highlander Associates**
2:30 PM	**ROUND TABLE, CLOSING STATEMENTS & ADJOURN**
Speaker:	**Michael Silvas, Florida Power & Light / Region 3 Chair**
3:00 – 6:00 PM	**ADJOURN TO EXHIBIT HALL**

Please visit the Exhibit Hall hosted by our vendors between 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM. This is an outstanding opportunity to see the latest technology in our industry, plus network with peers and vendor partners.

UTC's Broadband Workshop will take place at the Madren Conference Center beginning with the shared exhibit hall above and sessions taking place March 7 – 8. For more information please visit the Broadband Workshop event website by clicking here.