

Director's Message
By Don Labbe

Welcome to the Spring 2011 edition of What's Watt, the Power Industry Division (POWID) tri-annual newsletter. Every two years January marks a transition of the Director role for POWID. For the past two years we have been most ably lead by Cyrus Taft as Director and Dan Lee as Past Director. In spite of the deep recession, POWID membership has grown by nearly 20% to over 3000 and our premier event, the POWID 2010 symposium, was a major success as we worked closely with the Automation Federation and ISA. The 2010 symposium featured high level keynote speakers and an outpouring of technical papers and presentations from our membership on pressing power automation topics. The level of positive feedback from the attendees was unsurpassed. Just some of the other achievements under the direction of Cyrus and Dan include the following: (1) expansion of the governing body of POWID, the Executive Committee, to become truly international with new members from Brazil, India and Korea. (2) the establishment of an ISA Power Industry Division group within the LinkedIn social network, (3) the establishment of the ISA Power Community with over 750 POWID technical papers published in the on-line ISA library, and (4) the release of both new and updated ISA77 standards for fossil power plants. It takes dedication and perseverance to be a successful Division Director and Cyrus certainly demonstrated both during his two years. Thanks, Cyrus and thanks Dan. Our new Director-Elect is Denny Younie, whom most of you already know from his active role as the General Chair at many of our recent POWID Symposiums including POWID 2010 and this year's event.

POWID 2011 Symposium promises to be an outstanding event with an incredible line-up of key speakers coupled with an overwhelming response of technical papers and presentations from our membership. Serving along with Denny are Tim Hurst and Tim McCreary as the Program Co-Chairs. The symposium will be held on June 5th – 8th 2011 at the Embassy Suites Resort in Charlotte, NC, a hub of the burgeoning nuclear power industry. While the symposium will feature many topics on automation in the nuclear industry, a variety of sessions will be addressing issues facing the general power automation industry; fossil and renewable. The Symposium has a host of industry sponsors who plan to share technology and software innovations. The growing list includes Invensys Operations Management, Case M&I, Emerson Process Management, Honeywell, Power Magazine, Siemens, Hurst Technologies, GE Energy, and OSIsoft. The theme of the Symposium is "Power Generation Automation Today...Beyond the Original Intention". There are many ways to participate in the Symposium; as an author or presenter, as a technical paper reviewer, and as an attendee interacting with our speakers. The interactive setting and layout of the Symposium lends itself to comfortable and friendly discussions with your peers. Also, if you or your company would like to document best practices, project successes or technical enhancements, there may still be an opportunity. Hopefully you can participate in POWID's premier annual event. More details of the symposium are enclosed. And if you know of an outstanding individual who has contributed to the advancement of automation in the power industry or a power plant that has installed advanced automation technology, please submit a nomination for our prestigious ISA POWID awards.

The power automation industry is in the midst of a major growth period. President Obama during his mid-term State of the Union Address emphasized the power industry as a key segment to the future success of the country. The terms "energy" and "clean energy" were mentioned a total of 15 times during this prime speech to the nation. In reference to the importance of electricity production and efficiency he stated "building a new generation of safe, clean nuclear power plants in this country". He also called for investment in "clean coal technologies". There is general recognition that the Smart Grid and renewable energy invokes

the highest levels of automation. MIT's January/February 2011 issue of Technology Review included a major article on Smart Grid acknowledging the role of controls "to constantly adjust the flow of power from distributed sources and multiple power plants, adapting to rapidly changing conditions". Our power plant fleet will be challenged to be ever more flexible with automated start-ups, faster ramp rates, lower minimum loads and higher peak loads. Only through automation can such improvements be effectively accomplished, balancing the load generation needs with protecting and sustaining plant equipment, minimizing emissions and maximizing efficiency. Perhaps the term "multivariable control" may become a common reference in control design. The power automation industry plays a prime role in providing affordable, secure energy for the world. Through ISA POWID each of us are empowered to contribute to this endeavor.

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