



DTECH

February 2–5, 2026
San Diego, CA

Presented by

Itron

2026 Post-Event Report

Where the Grid's Future Takes Shape



dtech-events.com

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Group VP, Generation, Transmission,
Distribution, Renewables

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Thank You: Sponsors, Partners, and
Press

A Message from Stephanie Kolodziej,

Group VP, Generation, Transmission, Distribution, Renewables



Thank you from all of us at DTECH!

From AI-driven planning to grid resilience and infrastructure investment, the industry is moving faster than ever. DTECH brings together the voices shaping that transformation, creating a space where ideas become partnerships and progress becomes reality.

This year, DTECH reflected the rapid transformation happening across the transmission and distribution landscape. As utilities navigate accelerating load growth, AI-driven demand, and evolving reliability expectations, collaboration and practical innovation have never been more important. DTECH is where the industry comes together to share insights, build partnerships, and turn ideas into action.

The energy throughout this year's event was driven by you. From keynotes and technical sessions to conversations across the exhibit hall and networking events, your commitment to advancing the grid was felt at every moment. Whether it was your first DTECH or your tenth, you are what makes this community strong.

As the industry continues to evolve, DTECH remains focused on supporting utilities and solution providers through meaningful education, connection, and year-round engagement. We look forward to continuing to support your success in the year ahead.

With deepest appreciation and warm regards,

Stephanie Kolodziej

Group VP, Generation, Transmission, Distribution, Renewables



Audience Highlights

18,000+
Total professionals

47%
Exhibitors

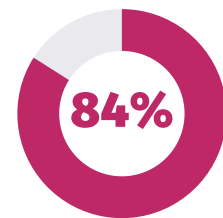
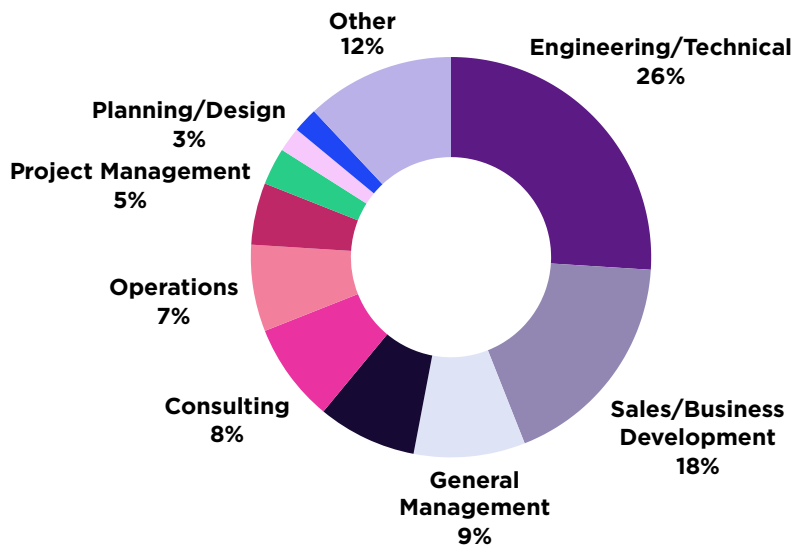
50%
Attendees

55%
Conference

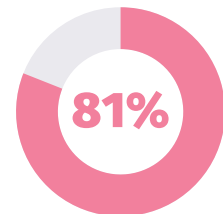
45%
Exhibit Hall

Utilities 42%
Consultants 15%
EPC 10%
Finance & Investment 6%

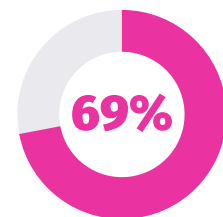
Registrations by Job Function



Were satisfied or highly satisfied by DTECH 2026



of attendees have decision-making authority or have influence in decision-making



of all attendees are manager level or above

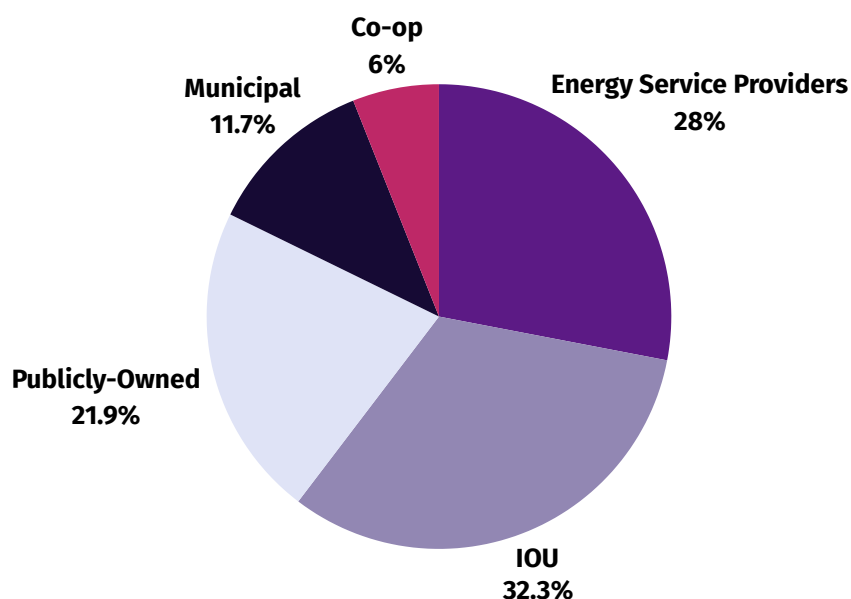
Top Challenges of Attendees

- Grid Modernization
- Advance Metering Infrastructure
- AI, AR, VR, Machine Learning
- Asset Management
- ADMS

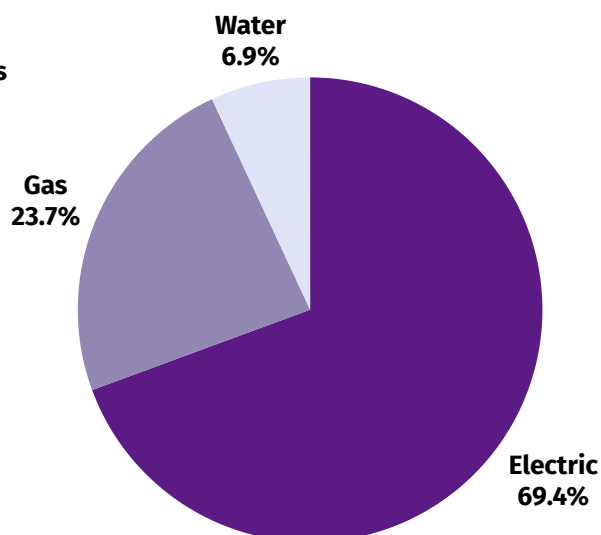
Uniting the Utility Industry

Attendees by Company Type

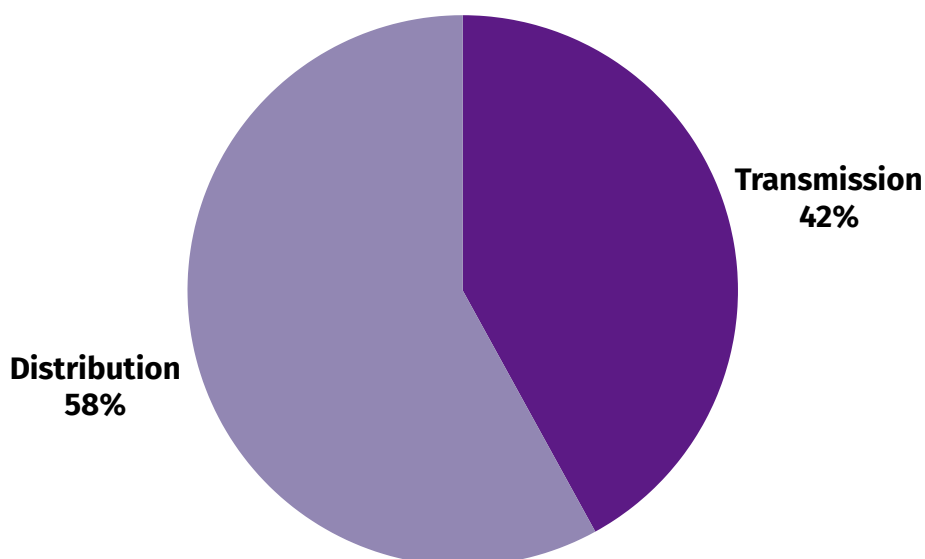
Utility Sublevels



Utility Service Type



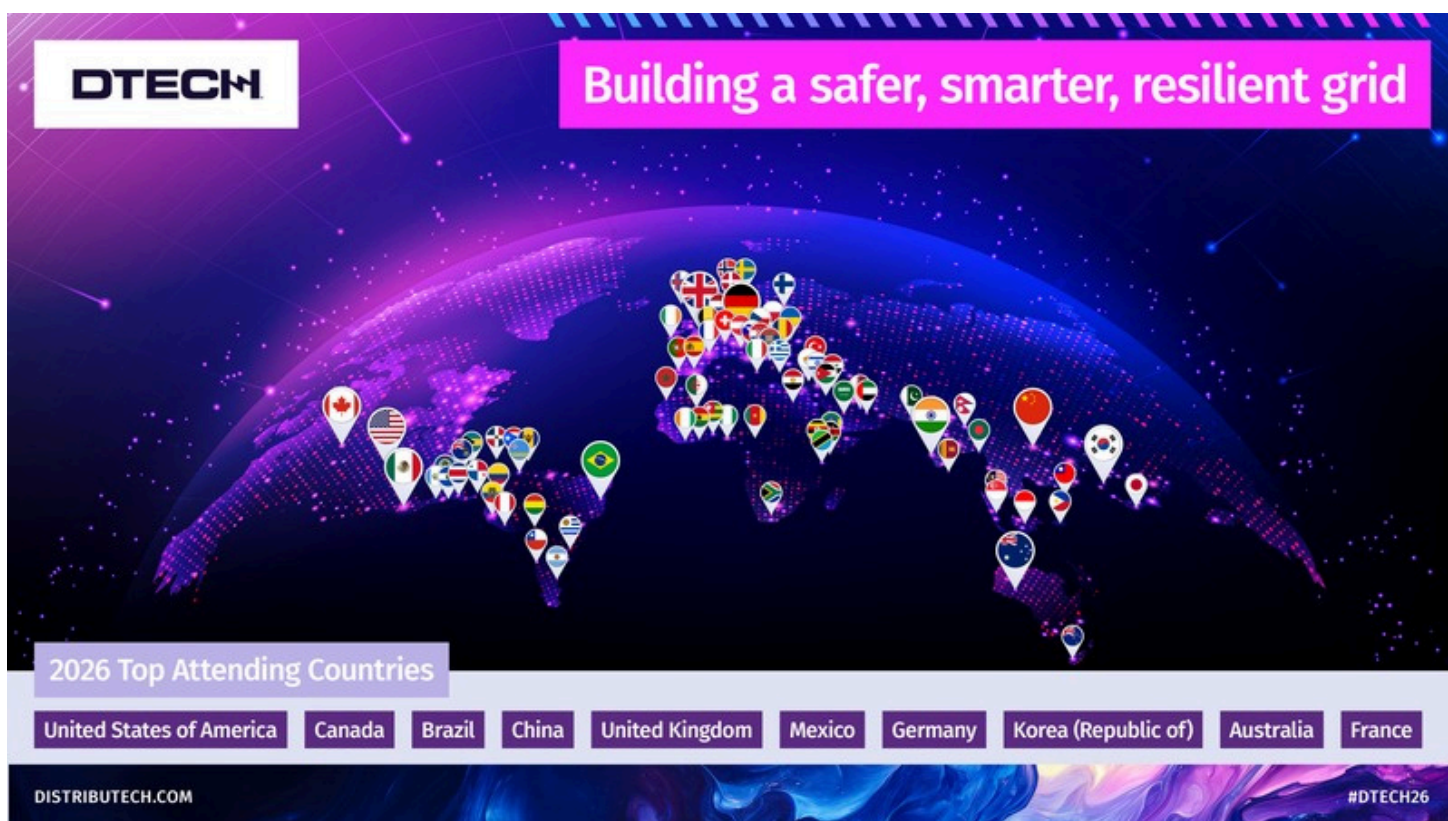
Area of Responsibility



Thank You To Our Utility Partners!



DTECH Welcomes the World



73

Countries Represented

by attendees, including the US.

Top 10

USA, Canada, Brazil, China, United Kingdom, Mexico, Germany, Korea (Republic of), Australia, France

14%

International Attendees

DTECH features utilities from **40 countries**.

Initiate Startup Program

Where innovation takes center stage

First Place Winner



Second Place Winner



Third Place Winner



2026 Technical Conference Program

Technical content, leading the utility industry

28 topics selected by utilities, offering a distinctive chance to delve into the latest advancements in the transmission and distribution industry by organizing insights, innovations, and leaders from grid edge to smart cities to artificial intelligence.

28 Topics:

★ Top-Rated Topic

- Advanced distribution management systems (ADMS)
- Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)
- ★• Advanced operations
- Artificial intelligence
- Asset management
- Bulk power and energy markets
- C&I and data centers
- Communication networks
- Control room operations
- Cybersecurity
- Customer engagement
- Data analytics
- DER
- DERMS
- ★• Digital transformation
- Energy storage
- Grid edge
- Grid enhancing technologies (GETs)
- ★• Grid modernization
- Microgrids
- Network management systems
- Policy and regulation
- ★• Reliability and resilience
- Smart cities
- Storm and Wildfires
- Strategy & workforce
- Transportation electrification
- Vegetation management

600+

Speakers/Committee Members

6

Keynote Sessions

290+

Educational Sessions

4

Knowledge Hubs

Top Attended Sessions:

- Wildfire Risk Mitigation & Vegetation Management Symposium
- How PG&E and Duke Are Using AI to Prepare the Grid for Electrification
- The Resilient Grid: AI Applications Transforming Planning and Operations
- Optimizing Interconnection Queues with AI-Augmented Workflow Automation

Top Topics

Most-Attended Sessions



Advanced operations

- The Resilient Grid: AI Applications Transforming Planning and Operations
- Optimizing Interconnection Queues with AI-Augmented Workflow Automation
- Powering Agile Innovation: Aligning Digital Products with Strategy & Workforce Transformations
- Integrated Digital Construction Workflows Transform Field Operations at Montana Dakota Utility

Featured Speakers

- John Pressley
- Jayapal Parakkuth
- Hendric Hamann
- Jose Medina
- Joe Beer
- Marie Steele
- Ioana Loch
- Fedor Petrenko
- Manoj Sriram
- Danny Petrecca

Digital transformation

- Building Resilience in Outage Management: A Forward-Looking Approach to Preparedness, Response, and Communication
- What Keeps Utility Executives Up at 3am
- Virtual System Protection and Digitization for Substation and Grid Performance
- The Executive Blueprint: How Xcel Energy Built a Future-Proof, AI-Driven Grid

Featured Speakers

- Stephenie Howard
- Kevin Geraghty
- Digaunto Chatterjee
- Mark Lauby
- Nick Rancis
- David Huffstutler
- Sal Vasquez
- Stephen Ndungu
- Giacomo Listi
- Eric Levin
- Cindy Hoffman
- Marcus Johansson

Top Topics

Most-Attended Sessions



Reliability and resilience

- Anatomy of Successful Resiliency Plan Execution: Keys to CenterPoint's Successful Greater Houston Resiliency Initiative
- Distribution System Reliability Enhancements and Opportunities with Virtual Power Plants and DER Coordination
- Innovations in the Monitoring and Analysis of Distribution Systems to Improve reliability, Safety, and Reduce Risk of Wildfires and Major Storms
- How PG&E and Southern Company Use Data Science to Predict Outages and Accelerate Storm Recovery

Featured Speakers

- Eric Easton
- Nicole Arres
- Cyril Brunner
- Kumarsinh Jhala
- Jun Wen
- Ryan Anthon
- Kawika Lawlor
- David Huffstutler
- Angie Gibson
- Kyle Decker
- Melanie Wemple

Grid modernization

- Edge Intelligence: Driving Grid Automation and IT/OT Convergence
- Reinventing the Utility Playbook: AI Agents for Grid Growth, Storm Response, and the Workforce 2.0
- National Grid-Modernizing the Grid with Volt-VAR Optimization: A Comparative Analysis of Decentralized and Centralized Approaches
- Building Resilient Grids: Enabling Reliability and Stability Through Battery Energy Storage Systems

Featured Speakers

- Philippe Beauchamp
- Mike Kopczynski
- Stuart Laval
- Salam BaniAhmed
- Richard Mueller
- Josh Wong
- Brenden Russell
- Mark Thompson
- Steve Adams
- Patrick Cody
- Nazih Yazbeck
- Ryan Rainville
- Shamiah McDonald
- Patrick Abruzzese

Transforming Connections - DTECH Keynotes



Opening Keynote



Keller Rinaudo Clifton - Zipline

- Stephanie Kolodziej set the tone with a powerful reminder that progress across the grid happens through collaboration, emphasizing how shared innovation strengthens utilities and communities alike.
- Itron CEO Tom Deitrich and utility leaders from SDG&E, PG&E, and Duke Energy explored how data and connectivity are transforming wildfire mitigation, affordability, and real-time grid visibility.
- Zipline CEO Keller Rinaudo Clifton challenged attendees to rethink drones and automation, highlighting how AI and robotics are solving critical problems across industries.

Transforming Connections - DTECH Keynotes

The World in Sight: A Guide to the Key Technological Trends of the Next 10-20 Years and What They Mean for Brands and Organizations



Dex Torricke - Formerly at SpaceX,
Facebook, and Google

- GE Vernova showcased GridBeats and Grid OS as examples of how utilities are moving toward more intelligent, connected grid operations.
- Discussions highlighted the shift toward simplified device management and unified DER control as modernization accelerates.
- Dex Torricke encouraged organizations to look beyond today's headlines, explaining how understanding macro technology trends is essential to long-term strategy.

Storytelling for Business



Matthew Luhn - Formerly at Pixar
Animation Studios

- Leaders from ETAP and NVIDIA examined how AI factories are reshaping energy demand and why utilities must align planning models with real-time system operations.
- The panel underscored the growing role of simulation and digital twins in testing infrastructure before deployment.
- Pixar veteran Matthew Luhn closed with a reminder that storytelling drives action, sharing techniques to help teams communicate ideas with clarity and purpose.

Transforming Connections - DTECH Keynotes

Powering Energy Innovation with AI at Scale: AWS, Duke Energy, NERC, & SEMPRA



Sasha Weintraub - Duke Energy



Ben Gordon - Sempra CA



Jim Robb - NERC



Ben Wilson - Amazon Web Services

- AWS framed AI as a major catalyst for energy demand, pushing utilities to rethink infrastructure planning at scale.
- Industry executives discussed how hyperscale cloud growth is reshaping load patterns while increasing the need for responsible energy sourcing and renewable integration.
- A recurring theme emerged: collaboration between utilities, regulators, and technology leaders will define a sustainable digital future.

Building a Brand. Brick by Brick.



Sara Riis-Carstensen - Formerly at LEGO, Carlsberg, Giorgio Armani, and De Beers

- SEL President David Whitehead reflected on how innovation and vision fuel long-term impact across the energy sector.
- Sara Riis-Carstensen highlighted that strong brands go beyond visuals, shaping culture, trust, and connection within organizations.
- Together, the speakers emphasized that clear purpose and storytelling help teams navigate change and inspire progress.

Transforming Connections - DTECH Keynotes

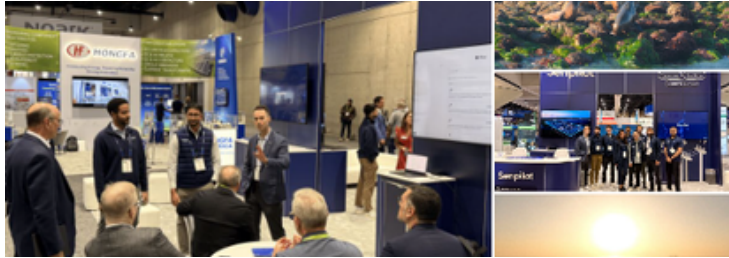
Silicon Valley's Innovation Playbook: How To Create "Renewable" Ideas.



Jon Youshaei, Formerly at
YouTube & Instagram

- E Source and Google Cloud explored how AI-driven collaboration is improving grid resilience and frontline safety through real-time insights.
- Conversations reframed regulation as an enabler of innovation when aligned with the right outcomes.
- Jon Youshaei closed by encouraging audiences to embrace experimentation, using creativity and inspiration to turn ideas into meaningful innovation.

Social Media Buzz



TESCO Metering

3,371 followers
5h • Edited •

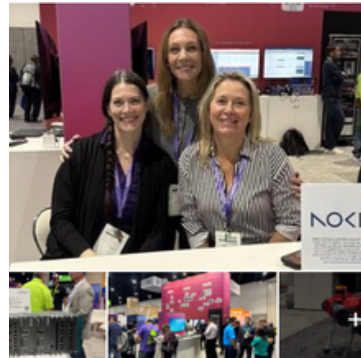
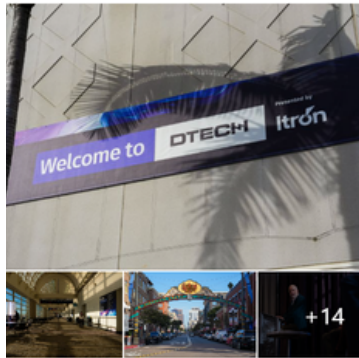
A look back at DTECH!

From conversations around interoperable AMI architecture to real world discussions on accuracy, reliability, and grid modernization, DISTRIBUTECH highlighted the value of staying grounded in practical utility needs.

Katie Siegel • 3rd+
CEO/Co-founder at Piplum - we're hiring!
Visit my website
4h •

It was a great opportunity to speak with **Lei Wang, Jia Liu, and Leslie Garriss** /MBA at DTECH about PG&E's new Flex Connect program, which enables EV charging sites to unlock additional site capacity without long waiting periods.

I'd like to share this program with more folks as we gear up for some Flex Connect playments this year!



...the network, detects malware instantly, and alerts cyber defense teams — giving utilities and OT manufacturers a new edge in defending their critical infrastructure.

A big thank you to our incredible team who represented Crytica: **C. Kerry Nemovichev, PhD**, CEO & President, **C. Lloyd Mahaffey**, Executive Chairman, **Jacob Blanchard**, VP of OEM Sales, and **Dan Missbrenner**, VP Sales End User & Channels. Want to learn more about Crytica Security or connect with our team? Visit us today at www.cryticasecurity.com!

#CryticaSecurity #DTECH2026 #OTSecurity #Cybersecurity #CriticalInfrastructure #MalwareDetection



Klaus Metnitzer • 3rd+
Head of Execution Excellence & Service Innovation North America at Nokia
5h •

I want to extend a big thank you 🙌 to all the customers, partners, and colleagues who stopped by the Nokia booth over the past days at DTECH. It was fantastic connecting with so many of you, sharing ideas, and exploring how we can continue driving innovation together.

I truly appreciated every conversation — from deep-dive technical discussions to strategic collaboration opportunities — and I'm looking forward to following up with each of you soon.

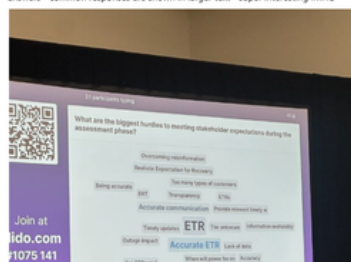
Thanks again for your interest, your time, and the great energy you brought to our booth. Excited for what comes next!

#Nokia #Innovation #Teamwork #Connectivity #ThankYou #DTECH2026
#GridModernization #PrivateWireless #Cybersecurity #SmartCities
#DeployServices #DigitalInfrastructure #SmartPoles #Innovation #5G



Zac Sanders • 2nd
Founder @DataCapire Entrepreneur with a Passion for Network-Based Business...
4h •

I took this picture while at DTECH - an audience of ~200 people (who are all utility customers) were asked "what are the biggest hurdles to meeting stakeholder expectations during the assessment phase? The audience could freeform their answers - common responses are shown in larger text - super interesting IMHO



Feeling energized by the conversations, proud of the work we're doing, and thankful for the people I get to do it with.

#Distributech #Qualus #EnergyInnovation



What Attendees Had To Say:

“

I really feel like DTECH is creating the platform to expand the conversation. We need resiliency. I think that's what it's all about and that goes far beyond just transmission and distribution.

Rebekah Eggers, IBM

So my favorite part of DTECH has been that, as a weather startup, it's really valuable to understand what utility companies are focused on and how we can contribute to helping utilities be better prepared for weather events.

Yutong Chen, WindBorne System

You think you know everything about what's going on in the business. Then you come to DTECH and learn a lot more is happening.

Joe Zerdin, Hydro One

”

What Exhibitors Had To Say:

“

ABB is excited to be at DTECH. We're here to showcase all of our solutions and products we have for our utility customers to make their grid better and digitize to the next level.

Luiz Marques, ABB

DTECH continues to be an important forum for conversations around reliability, accuracy, and the future of utility operations. I appreciated the opportunity to share perspectives on interoperability by design and to connect with so many engaged industry peers.

Tom Lawton, TESCO Metering

There were so many great conversations had and connections made amongst the delegates, exhibitors and partners that helped the event truly live up to the theme of experiencing the energy movement!

Eric Charette, Qualus

”

The Meeting House

Where connections were made.



1,787
Accepted
meetings



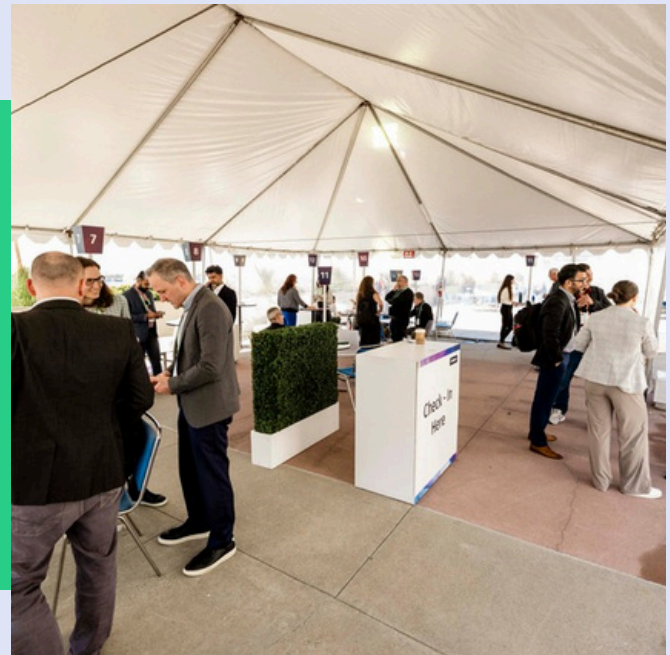
5,023
Connections
made

72%

of people
indicated their
meeting was
good

111,156

people or
companies were
marked as
interested



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SMART ENERGY
CONSUMER COLLABORATIVE



Smart Electric
Power Alliance

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MOVEMENT

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Scottsdale, AZ

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RELIABILITY & RESILIENCY

August 25-27, 2026
Chicago, IL

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November 2-4, 2026
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