Invitation and Call for Papers

Workshop on Microgrid Systems and Power Electronics for Low Energy Buildings  
March 29-31, 2015  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
3002 Electrical and Computer Engineering Building, 406 N. Wright St., Urbana, IL 61801 USA

The 2015 Workshop on Microgrid Systems and Power Electronics for Low Energy Buildings brings together renewable energy systems and their integration into electricity grids and buildings. The workshop is sponsored by the Mid-America Microgrid Education and Training Consortium (MARMET), the Power Sources Manufacturers Association (PSMA) and the IEEE Power Electronics Society Emerging Technologies Technical Committee. It follows from a focused workshop held in 2014 at the Applied Power Electronics Conference. The workshop will be held at the new Electrical and Computer Engineering Buildings (ECEB) at the University of Illinois, a facility designed to achieve LEED Platinum status and ultimately net-zero energy performance.

The event seeks to address engineering issues involved in implementing grid-interactive renewables, addressing questions and topics that include:

-- How do microgrid configurations and operational approaches support renewable energy deployment in buildings and commercial sites?
-- What are appropriate strategies for energy reduction in new building designs and retrofits?
-- How can microgrids and renewable resources operate to benefit the grid, with attributes that include reactive power support, dynamic regulation, and intelligent fault management?
-- What are energy storage alternatives, thermal, electrical, and others, that help mitigate randomness of renewable resources?
-- What business and economic considerations drive engineering decisions in these areas?

The workshop format mixes invited presentations, submitted papers, discussion sessions, and small-group discussions. The workshop proceedings will be published. The new ECEB will also be presented, and in-depth building tours and analysis will be part of the program.

Schedule:

(4:00pm Sunday, March 29, 2015) MARMET operating committee meeting, by invitation only, room 5070 ECEB
(6:00pm Sunday, March 29, 2015) Reception and networking, 3002 ECEB

8:00am Monday, March 30, 2015  Continental breakfast, 3002 ECEB
8:30am-12:00pm Monday  Paper presentations and discussion sessions
12:00pm-1:00pm Monday  Workshop buffet luncheon
1:00pm-4:30pm Monday  Paper presentations and discussion sessions
4:30-5:45pm Monday  ECEB tour
6:00-8:30pm Monday  Reception and banquet
8:00am Tuesday, March 31, 2015  Continental breakfast, 3002 ECEB
8:30am-12:00pm Tuesday  Paper presentations and discussion sessions
12:00pm-1:00pm Tuesday  Workshop buffet luncheon
1:00pm-2:30pm Tuesday  Paper presentations and discussion sessions
2:30pm-3:00pm Tuesday  Concluding discussions and workshop conclusion

Registration levels (covers meals and conference materials) valid through March 16, 2015:
  MARMET/PSMA/IEEE members and MARMET participating companies:  $200 per person
  MARMET/IEEE student members and IEEE life members:  $100 per person
  Non-members:  $300 per person
On-site or late registration, March 17, 2015 and later:
  MARMET/PSMA/IEEE members and MARMET participating companies:  $250 per person
  MARMET/IEEE student members and IEEE life members:  $125 per person
  Non-members:  $350 per person

Deadlines:  Paper proposal submission (3-5 page double-spaced digest) by February 16, 2015.
  Decisions on paper acceptance by February 28, 2015
  Final manuscripts due March 23, 2015

Web:  http://marmet-center.org/

MORE INFORMATION

The MARMET operating committee will meet in person prior to the workshop in room 5070 ECEB.
Committee members please plan to attend.

For travel, the nearest airport is Champaign, CMI, with multiple daily flights to and from Chicago and
one daily flight to and from Dallas.  The airport is served by American Eagle.

Driving directions:

From the north, take I-57 south to exit 235A, University Avenue.  From the south, take I-57 north to exit
235A, University Avenue.  Travel east through downtown Champaign, continuing into Urbana past the
large Beckman Institute building, about 4.2 miles.  Turn right on Mathews St.  Take an immediate left
into the parking garage.  Metered parking is available.

From the east, take I-74 west to exit 183, Lincoln Ave.  Travel south to University Ave.  Turn right.  Turn
left at the next stoplight, Goodwin Ave.  Take an immediate right into the parking garage.  Metered
parking is available.

From the west, on I-72 proceed into the city as the freeway turns into University Ave.  Continue as from
the north or south.  From the west on I-74, proceed east to exit 183, Lincoln Ave.  Travel south to
University Ave.  Turn right.  Turn left at the next stoplight, Goodwin Ave.  Take an immediate right into
the parking garage.  Metered parking is available.

The workshop has not arranged for a hotel block to provide flexibility for the group.  The following hotels
are suggested:
Hampton Inn (diagonally across the street from the facility), 1200 West University Avenue, Urbana, IL,
61801.
Phone Number:  866-460-7456
Hyatt Place (downtown Champaign), 217 N Neil St, Champaign, IL, 61820. (approx. 0.6 miles west)
Phone Number: 866-460-7456

Illini Union (on campus, about 4 blocks south), 1401 W. Green St., Urbana, IL 61801
Phone: 217.333.3030 | Email: iu-hotel@illinois.edu

iHotel (about 1.5 miles south), 1900 S. First Street, Champaign, Illinois 61820.
Phone: 217.819.5000

Hilton Garden Inn, 1501 South Neil Street, Champaign, IL 61820 (approx. 1.2 miles southwest)
(217) 352-9970

Hawthorn Suites, 101 Trade Center Drive, Champaign, IL 61820 (approx. 1.2 miles southwest)
(217) 398-3400

Most of these hotels (except the Illini Union) offer airport and local shuttle services.