

**2017 IEEE PES Innovative Smart Grid Technologies Conference Chair,  
Joe Paladino**

Joe Paladino graduated from Middlebury College in 1977 with a degree in biology and, after teaching for a couple of years, entered graduate school at the University of Pittsburgh where he received a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering in 1984. He went on to work for Westinghouse Electric Corporation and later joined the U.S. Department of Energy in 1992. He has worked for most of his career in the advancement and commercialization of technology to address energy and environmental issues, and over the past 10 years he has focused primarily in the area of grid modernization and smart grid adoption.



As the General Chair, I want to welcome you to ISGT 2017 which has drawn hundreds of people from academia, industry and the government to discuss issues and effective strategies for grid modernization. We may be experiencing one of the most transformational periods in the evolution of the electric grid given the impact of digital technology, emerging distributed assets, and new business approaches on traditional grid practices. It is indeed a fascinating, yet challenging time. We hope that ISGT 2017 serves as an effective forum for continued dialogue and collaboration so we can better address the challenges of this new era. Thank you for being here.

**2017 IEEE PES Innovative Smart Grid Technologies Conference Technical Chair,  
Farrokh Rahimi**

Farrokh Rahimi graduated from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1970 with a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering. In his current role as Senior Vice President, Market Design and Consulting at Open Access Technology International, Inc. (OATI), he oversees development of market design and consulting activities. He is also a key contributor to OATI Smart Grid and Grid Modernization activities, as well as



microgrid development activities of USA Microgrids, a newly established OATI company. Prior to joining OATI in 2006 he collaborated with California ISO for 8 years, Macro Corporation (now KEMA Consulting) for 8 years, Systems-Europe, Brussels Belgium for 5 years, and 13 years as a university professor and researcher at Sharif University of Technology in Iran, preceded by two years at Systems Control (now ABB), Palo Alto, California.

On behalf of the ISGT Technical Committee, I welcome you to IEEE ISGT 2017. The conference theme is “Innovative Trends in Grid Modernization”. The electric power industry is undergoing a fundamental transformation around the globe, particularly at the grid edge and distribution system levels, where the emergence of new technologies and consumer-end intelligent assets challenge the traditional approaches for grid planning, operations, and utility business models. We would like to thank all of you for participating at ISGT 2017, and hope that the conference serves as an effective forum for the industry, academia, regulators, and all those interested in the changing electricity industry landscape to share and discuss issues, trends, and innovative strategies for grid modernization.