



Utility Transformer Workshop

The CTS Joint Chapter of the IEEE Power & Energy Society/Industry Applications Society/Power Electronics Society/Industrial Electronics Society [PES/IAS/PELS/IES, which calls itself (PI)²] hosted a very successful workshop on 1 May about designing and specifying utility-scale transformers. The instructor for the workshop was Ronnie Minhaz, professional engineer, president and founder of Transformer Consulting Services, Inc., of Alberta, Canada. Minhaz is an active Member of the IEEE and PES and has held various IEEE Section-level leadership positions. He is shown speaking in Figure 1.

The workshop was well attended by private consultants as well as engineers from several local utilities. Two of the attendees even drove from Oklahoma City for the workshop. Austin Energy, the local electric utility, graciously offered the use of its facilities for the workshop.

Minhaz explained that there are many different design approaches, materials, and manufacturing processes that can be used to produce utility-scale transformers and that these different approaches can result in varying levels of system performance, power transfer efficiency, fault tolerance, equipment life, and costs. Review comments indicated that the workshop was very well received by all participants.

(PI)² is experienced at staging workshops from a variety of sources and topics. Previous workshops have included the triennial National Electrical Code (NEC) updates and changes, low-voltage motors and controls, NEC



FIGURE 1 – Ronnie Minhaz, P. Eng.



FIGURE 2 – Workshop audience.

grounding requirements, and grounding practices and methods. (PI)² is planning a second workshop on medium-voltage motors in October 2015.

(PI)² displayed its usual hospitality by serving breakfast tacos (a Texas staple) and pastries to the attendees for breakfast as they signed in, by catering in lunch, and by providing snacks and beverages throughout the day.

The workshop had 46 attendees, some shown in Figure 2. Impressed by the workshop, two attendees applied for IEEE membership.

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