9th Annual Conference on

POWER DISTRIBUTION IN INDIA
Emerging Requirements, Key Challenges and Best Practices
November 13-14, 2014, Le Meridien, New Delhi

Organisers:

Supporting exchange:

Supported by:

*Sponsorship opportunities available*
The mission of this conference is to provide a platform to share best practices, and highlight emerging requirements in the power distribution sector.

- A number of changes are taking place in the power distribution sector of the country, aimed at improving the financial viability of the sector. There have been regular tariff revisions in most states over the past two to three years. Financial restructuring plans have been operationalised in four states and are under consideration in other states.
- Emerging requirements such as new types of loads, changing generation mix, mix, metering, customer service needs, etc. are the drivers of business transformation in the distribution segment. Utilities will need to adapt their business processes and technology deployments to these requirements.
- Discoms are increasingly deploying IT-based solutions. There is a greater focus on building robust energy accounting systems and automating metering, billing and collection. Many of these systems are being put in place under the R-APDRP, which holds significant promise in modernising the sector. Utilities are also using advanced analytics to evaluate their network and consumer data.
- Load forecasting is emerging as an important tool for discoms to manage demand. Discoms are also undertaking demand-side management measures such as time of day (ToD) metering, to smoothen the demand curve.
- With ageing network and equipment, condition monitoring and diagnostics will play a key role to ensure uninterrupted power supply to customers. This will help in reducing the failure rate of key equipment like transformers.
- In order to infuse capital investment and reduce losses, a number of states are also looking at adopting the franchise model in their high-loss circles. States that have been active in appointing franchisees in the past one year include Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha.
- Despite all the progress made, high AT&C losses remain the key factors for the weak financial position of distribution utilities. While efforts are being made to reduce these losses, the trajectory of AT&C loss reduction has been very gradual. Over a period of five years, the losses have come down from 30.6 per cent (2006-07) and currently stand at 26-27 per cent.
- The average cost of supply-average revenue realised gap, though narrowed through regular tariff increases, still exists, so discoms continue to incur losses on each unit of power sold. Utilities are still using load shedding as a means to manage demand and minimise losses; as such, demand remains suppressed.
- Power procurement costs, which are the biggest proportion of the costs of discoms, have been increasing due to increased cost of generation. Discoms are also concerned about possible renegotiations of or tariff escalation in the existing power purchase contracts.
- The mission of this conference is to provide a platform to share best practices, and highlight emerging requirements in the power distribution sector. The conference will also focus on the key challenges facing the sector and the measures being taken to address them.
November 13-14, 2014, Le Meridien, New Delhi

AGENDA/STRUCTURE

KEY TRENDS AND OUTLOOK
- What is the current state of the distribution sector?
- What are the key trends in network growth, tariffs, costs and competition?
- What are some of the major challenges for the sector?

GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE
- What is the government’s perspective on the distribution sector?
- What is the update on the Financial Restructuring Plan for state discoms?
- What are the key challenges being faced by the sector? What is the outlook?

DISCOM PERSPECTIVE: NEW REQUIREMENTS
- What is the discom perspective on the sector?
- How are discoms gearing up to deal with new requirements such as new types of loads, changing generation mix, net metering, customer requirements, etc.?
- What are the key initiatives being undertaken by the discoms?

R-APDRP EXPERIENCE
- What is the current status of the R-APDRP programme?
- Has the progress on R-APDRP been satisfactory so far?
- What have been the key issues and challenges in this regard?

TARIFF TRENDS AND DISCOM FINANCES
- What are the trends in retail tariffs across states? What is the outlook for tariffs?
- What is the trend regarding the financial losses of distribution utilities?
- How is the Financial Restructuring Package expected to impact discom finances?

UPDATE ON REGULATIONS
- What have been the key recent regulations impacting the distribution sector?
- What will be the impact of these developments on discom finances and performance?
- What are the key unresolved issues? Which of these are likely to be addressed in the near future?

BEST PRACTICES IN METERING, BILLING AND COLLECTION
- What has been the utilities’ experience in implementing new metering technologies?
- What are the best practices in increasing collection and billing efficiency?
- What are the new metering technologies being considered for deployment?

FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY: TRANSFORMERS, SUBSTATIONS, SWITCHGEARS, CABLES AND CONDUCTORS
- What have been the technological advancements in transformers?
- What are the key technology trends in substations and switchgear?
- What have been the technological innovations in cables and conductors?
- What has been the level of adoption of new technologies by the discoms?
- How are the equipment requirements of discoms changing?
- What are the plans of equipment providers?

SMART GRID: UPDATE ON PILOT PROJECTS
- What is the progress of pilot smart grid projects?
- What are the next steps in smart grid development?
- How can smart grid technologies be used to improve energy accounting and reduce network losses?

POWER SOURCING STRATEGIES AND COST OF POWER PURCHASE
- How are discoms leveraging various sources to meet their power purchase needs?
- What are the factors impacting the power purchase costs of discoms?
- What is the role of short-term power in meeting the discoms’ needs?

LOSS REDUCTION AND REVENUE PROTECTION STRATEGIES
- What are the key initiatives of discoms to reduce commercial losses?
- What are some of the best practices in this regard?
- What have been the key learnings?

ASSET MANAGEMENT
- What are the technology solutions that can be deployed for streamlining asset maintenance and procurement?
- What tools are being deployed by utilities for condition monitoring and diagnostics?
- How are these technologies and tools helping to pre-empt equipment failures (for example, transformers)?

LOAD FORECASTING AND DEMAND-SIDE MANAGEMENT
- What are the emerging requirements for load management and forecasting? How are discoms responding to these needs?
- What are the key demand-side management initiatives by discoms? What are the key challenges?
- What has been the experience of utilities in implementing new tariff structures such as ToD tariffs?

UPDATE ON FRANCHISE MODEL
- What are the key benefits of the franchise model in the power distribution sector?
- What has been the experience with franchise models so far? Which are the upcoming franchisees in the sector?
- How is the emerging policy environment placed for distribution franchisees?

SMART GRID: UPDATE ON PILOT PROJECTS
- What is the state of implementation of smart grid technologies?
- What are the key lessons learned from the pilot projects?
- What are the next steps in smart grid development?

IT OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES: DATA ANALYTICS, CLOUD COMPUTING AND CYBER SECURITY
- What are the various data analytics tools being deployed by discoms to analyse their consumer and network data?
- How are discoms using analytics to draw insights regarding their businesses?
- What are the key benefits of cloud computing? What are the different IT models?
- What solutions does cloud computing offer to power utilities?
- What are the specific solutions to address the cyber security threat to utilities?

Target Audience
- Discoms and SEBs
- Private utilities
- Power distribution franchisees
- Technology providers
- Potential new distribution players
- IT providers
- Contractors
- Consultancy organisations
- Financial institutions
- Funding agencies
- Equipment manufacturers (Transformer, substation, switchgear, cable, conductor manufacturers, etc.)
- Government agencies (central/state)
- Regulatory institutions
- Research organisations, etc.
I would like to register for the conference. I am enclosing Rs_______________________________ vide cheque/demand draft no._____________________________ drawn on ___________________________dated ______________ in favour of India Infrastructure Publishing Pvt. Ltd. payable at New Delhi.

Please send wire transfer payments to:
Beneficiary: India Infrastructure Publishing Private Limited
Bank Name: The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd.
Bank Address: R-47, Greater Kailash-1, New Delhi-110048, India
Bank Account No.: 094179587002
Swift Code: HSBCINBB
IFSC Code: HSBC0110006

Name(s)/Designation (IN BLOCK LETTERS)

Company

Mailing Address

Phone
Mobile
Fax
Email

Registration Fee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Delegates</th>
<th>One</th>
<th>Two</th>
<th>Three</th>
<th>Four</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INR</td>
<td>22,500</td>
<td>37,500</td>
<td>52,500</td>
<td>67,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service tax (12.36%)</td>
<td>2,781</td>
<td>4,635</td>
<td>6,489</td>
<td>8,343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>25,281</td>
<td>42,135</td>
<td>58,989</td>
<td>75,843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USD</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>845</td>
<td>1,185</td>
<td>1,525</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- There is a special low fee of Rs 5,000 per participant for the state electricity boards and their successor units (state-owned gencos, transcos and discoms), regulatory authorities, and academic institutions.
- Service tax of 12.36 per cent is applicable on the registration fee.

Terms and Conditions:
- The conference is a non-residential programme.
- Registration will be confirmed on receipt of the payment. Full payment must be received prior to the conference.
- Conference fee includes lunch, tea/coffee and conference materials.
- Conference fees cannot be substituted for any other product or service being extended by India Infrastructure Publishing Pvt. Ltd.

Contact: Richa Jhamnani, Conference Cell, India Infrastructure Publishing Pvt. Ltd.,
B-17, Qutab Institutional Area, New Delhi 110016.
Tel: +91-11-41034616, 41034615, 9971992998, Fax: +91-11-26531196, 46038149
E-mail: conferencecell@indiainfrastructure.com

Sponsorship opportunities are available

Organisers
The conference is being organised by India Infrastructure Publishing, a company dedicated to providing information on the infrastructure sectors through magazines, newsletters, reports and conferences. It publishes Power Line (the premier magazine for the Indian power sector), Renewable Watch, Smart Utilities and Indian Infrastructure magazines. It also publishes a series of reports on the energy sector including Distribution in India, Transmission in India, and Indian Power Sector and Equipment Market Outlook. The company also publishes the Power Line Directory and Yearbook.

Cover pic courtesy: shutterstock images