





### PROTECTION, AUTOMATION & CONTROL WORLD

# AMERICAS CONFERENCE 2025





#### Monday 11 August, 2025

#### Raleigh Convention Center, Raleigh, North Carolina, USA

12:00 – 17:00 Conference Registration

13:30 – 17:00 Tutorial: "Digital Substations in Practice: Architecture, Testing,

and Live Demonstrations"

Introduction by Dr. Alexander Apostolov, USA, IEEE Life Fellow,

Distinguished Member of CIGRE, Member of NAE

#### Presenters:

■ Eugenio Carvalheira, ■ Pascal Francis-Mezger – OMICRON electronics Corp. USA

■ Mike Ramlachan, ■ Craig Wester, ■ Christine Crites – GE Vernova

#### Raleigh Taverna Agora, 326 Hillsborough St, Raleigh, NC 27603

18:00 – 20:00 Welcome Reception

#### Tuesday 12 August, 2025

#### Raleigh Convention Center, Raleigh, North Carolina, USA

8:15 – 8:30 Conference opening - Dr. Alexander Apostolov, Conference Chairman

8:30 – 9:00 Keynote address: "Powering the Carolinas: Grid Resilience Through Energy Storage"

by Jay Oliver, VP of Energy Storage and Grid Development, Duke Energy

#### **Morning Session TUM Part 1:**

#### Chair: Rich Hunt, Quanta Technolog, USA

9:00 – 9:15	Lessons Learned from a Virtual Protection Relay (VPR) System Proof-of-Concept (PoC) Implementation -
	N. Rexwinkel, SCE, USA; C. Garcia, E. Colmenares, ABB, USA
9:15 – 9:30	Virtual 86 Lockout – Considerations and Applications in Digital Substations - W. Hartmann, C. Wester,
	GE Vernova, USA
9:30 – 9:45	Leveraging 5G URLLC for Protection and Control Operations in Transmission and Distribution Networks -
	M. Subieta, Nokia, USA
9:45 – 10:00	Enabling Full Integration of Ethernet Networks into IEC 61850 Systems: The First Steps Towards a Unified
	PACS Framework - G. Lisboa, Belden, Brazil
10:00 – 10:15	How to Troubleshoot a Network Incident in IEC61850 Digital Substation - S. Jose, ASE & Kalkitech, USA & India
10:15 – 10:30	Discussions
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break at the Exhibition areas at the Raleigh Convention Center

#### **Morning Session TUM Part 2:**

#### Chair: Rich Hunt, Quanta Technolog, USA

11:00 – 11:15	Protection Schemes for Inverter-Dominated Transmission Systems: First Experiences from Hardware Testbed of Hawai'i Island - U. Muenz, A. Stinskiy, E. Oliveira, A. Banerjee - Siemens US, USA; S. Sano, A. Li, M. Chee -
	Hawaiian Electric Company, USA; T. Barik, D. Ramasubramanian, E. Farantatos, S. Das - EPRI, USA
11:15 – 11:30	The IEC 61850 Engineering Process from an Eagle's View - F. Steinhauser, OMICRON, Austria
11:30 – 11:45	An Introduction to Harmonics on the Power Grid - T. Laughner, Lifescale Analytics, USA; B. Warmack,
	Oak Ridge National Labs, USA
11:45 – 12:00	Updating LUMA Energy's Protection Philosophies, Settings Criteria, Short Circuit Modeling, Protection
	Coordination Practices, and System-wide Settings Deployment - K. Judd, M. Malki, J. Li—Quanta Technology,
	LLC, USA; P. Wang, LUMA Energy, USA
12:00 – 12:15	Benefits of Implementing Control Authority in Substation Automation Systems - R. Corna, W. Oliveira,
	Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc., USA

12:15 – 12:30 Discussions

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch break at the Exhibition areas at the Raleigh Convention Center

#### **Afternoon Session TUA Part 1:**

#### Chair: Craig Wester, GE Vernova, USA

13:30 – 14:20 **Topic:** IBR Integration and the Impacts on P&C and the Grid

#### **Utility Panel:**

- Jonathan Sykes, Quanta Technology (panel moderator)
- Jason Eruneo, Duke Energy
- Zheyuan Cheng, Quanta Technology
- Bogdan Kasztenny, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories (SEL)
- 14:25 15:15 Topic: Microgrids in Crisis: Lessons from Hurricane Helene and the Hot Springs Response

#### **Utility Panel:**

- Patrick Louka, Duke Energy (panel moderator)
- B. Bryan Hosseini, Duke Energy
- Junior Hatcher, Duke Energy
- Wahiduddin ("Dean") Qaemi, Duke Energy
- 15:15 15:45 Coffee break at the Exhibition areas at the Raleigh Convention Center

#### Afternoon Session TUA Part 2:

#### Chair: Craig Wester, GE Vernova, USA

15:45 – 16:00	Practical Use of AI to Configure Relays and Automate Protection Studies - S. McGuinness, EPRI Europe DAC,
	Ireland; T. Kumar Barik, Electric Power Research Institute, USA
16:00- 16:15	Essentials of Renewable Energy Protection and Monitoring - D. Ransom, GE Vernova, USA
16:15 – 16:30	Update on UCA - H. Falk - UCAlug, USA
16:30 – 16:45	Enhancing Critical Infrastructure Resilience with vPRTC and APTS - J. Parrilli, H. Alves, J. Olsen,
	Microchip Technology Inc, USA
16:45 – 17:00	Modular Substation Construction Enabled by Digital Substations - R. Hunt, Quanta Technology LLC, USA
17:00 – 17:15	The Benefits & Challenges of 87L over Ethernet - A. Freeman-Scott, SCI Networks, USA; D. Dietmeyer,
	San Diego Gas & Electric, USA
17:15 – 17:30	Discussions
17:30- 19:30 or late	PAC Demo Hour <sup>+</sup> at the Exhibition areas at the Raleigh Convention Center

#### Wednesday 13 August, 2025

#### Raleigh Convention Center, Raleigh, North Carolina, USA

6:00 – 7:30 PAC World Sunrise Run through Downtown Raleigh (New!)

#### **Morning Session WEM Part 1:**

#### Chair: Fred Steinhauser, OMICRON electronics, Austria

8:30 – 8:45	Tradeoffs of Layer 3 Communications on the Process Bus - K. Gray, C. Dyer, POWER Engineers, USA;
	S. Karimi, POWER Engineers, Canada
8:45 – 9:00	Using 61850 Data Streams for Condition Based Monitoring - G. Wilson, Southern Company, USA
9:00 – 9:15	Impact of Sampled Analog Values on Time Synchronization of Line Current Differential Relays - T. Bains,
	I. Voloh, E. Bencz, S. Mutnuri, S. Gargaritano, J. Theron, GE Vernova, USA
9:15 – 9:30	Virtualization Maintenance and Testing - H. Falk - Outside the Box Consulting Services, USA; P. Myrda -
	Electric Power Research Institute, USA
9:30 – 9:45	Improving Time Synchronization Stability in Process Bus Applications via Seamless Changeover - J. Brandao,
	E. de Oliveira, R. Peres, Siemens, USA

9:45 – 10:00	NEMA Basic Application Profiles for Digital Substations - E Keller, G&W Electric, USA; B Marchionini,
	National Electrical Manufacturers Association, USA; A Stinskiy, Siemens, USA
10:00 – 10:15	Discussions
10:15 - 10:45	Coffee break at the Exhibition areas at the Raleigh Convention Center

#### **Morning Session WEM Part 2:**

#### Chair: Fred Steinhauser, OMICRON electronics, Austria

Chair: Paul Mirda, EPRI, USA

10:45 – 11:35	Topic: Challenges and Opportunities in Adopting Virtual Protection
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#### **Utility Panel:**

- David G. Hart, Quanta Technology (panel moderator)
- Brant Heap, Salt River Project
- John Archer, RedHat
- Jonathan Sykes, Quanta Technology
- Cristian Garcia, ABB

#### 11:40 – 12:30 Topic: Drivers and Benefits in Adopting Digital Substations

#### **Utility Panel:**

Afternoon Session WEA Part 2:

- Jonathan Sykes, Quanta Technology (panel moderator)
- John Bettler, ComEd (retired)
- Rick Tuck, Dominion
- Rich Hunt, Quanta Technology

#### 12:30 – 13:30 Lunch break at the Exhibition areas at the Raleigh Convention Center

13:30 – 13:45 Digital Twin: The Revolution In Electrical System Protection Maintenance - A. I. Ferreira Neto, G. M. Bardocha Rezende, PSI Energy, Brazil	
G. M. Bardocha Rezende, PSI Energy, Brazil	
13:45 – 14:00 Real-life Implementation, Testing and Validation of Routable-GOOSE over MPLS-TP: Case Tele-protection	n Santa
Rosa-Carapongo 220 kV line in Perú - J. Márcio Jorge, OMICRON electronics, Brazil; Y. Machuca Huamar	i,
ISA ENERGÍA, Perú; J. Velarde, Siemens, Perú; F. Gonzalez-Longatt, Loughborough University, United Kin	gdom
14:00 – 14:15 5G URLLC for Wide-Area Protection in an Active Distribution System - P. Raghuraman, NC State Unive	sity &
Siemens Industry, USA; I. Guvenc, M. E. Baran, NC State University, USA; D. Maas, University of Utah, USA	A
14:15 – 14:30 The Role of a Robust Communications Infrastructure for Time Synchronization supporting the Electric	Utility
Protection and Control Infrastructure - M. Subieta, Nokia, USA; R. Wright, Nokia, Canada	
14:30 – 14:45 A Bus Cleared and a Hidden Breaker Insulation Failure Revealed - R. Roman, K. Damron, Avista Utilities	USA;
E. Clawson, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc., USA	
14:45 – 15:00 A Real-World Application of Lossy Modal Analysis for Power Line Carrier Protection Channels - C. Palme	r,
PowerComm Solutions, USA; E. Louis Seiter, S. Slaski, National Grid, USA	
15:00 – 15:15 Discussions	
15:15 – 15:45 Coffee break at the Exhibition areas at the Raleigh Convention Center	

15:45 – 16:00	Virtualization of Protection Systems in Distribution Substations: Design, Implementation, and Performance
	Testing - N. Rexwinkel, F. Khalilpour, J. Silva; Southern California Edison, USA; A. Stinskiy, S. Talwar, M. Stollfuss,
	E. De Oliveira, Siemens, USA
16:00 – 16:15	Experience and Challenges in the Practical Implementation of Four Digital Substations in Brazil - D. Lellys,
	GE Vernova. USA: P. Humeres. Eletrobras. Brazil: I. Lima. PUC Minas University. Brazil

16:15 – 16:30	Modernizing Teleprotection: Migrating from SONET/SDH and TDM to IP/MPLS for Re-liable Protection and
	Control in Electric Utilities - M. Subieta, Nokia, USA
16:30 – 16:45	Secondary Injection Testing Technology in Merging Units aplications with Low Power Instrument Transformers -
	P. Junior, CONPROVE, Brazil; A. Furlani Rosa, SecuControl, Brazil; R. Bernardino, G. Salge, C. Martins, CONPROVE,
	Brazil; A. Rios, L. Varela, SecuControl, Brazil
16:45 – 17:00	Engineering and Testing Insights into Centralized PAC Systems - D. Mani, Megger, USA
17:00 – 17:15	Advanced Recloser-Fuse Protection Coordination Strategies for Wildfire Mitigation - A. Venkataramanan,
	S. Talukder, S. Chandra, D. Ishchenko, Eaton Corp, USA; T. Chow, Exelon - ComEd, USA
17:15 – 17:30	Discussions

#### 18:00 Conference Gala Dinner at the Jiddi Space & Courtyard, Raleigh, NC, USA

#### Thursday 14 August, 2025

Raleigh Convention Center, Raleigh, North Carolina, USA

Morning Sess	sion THM Part 1:	Chair: Alex Apostolov, PAC World, USA
8:30 – 8:45	Automated Testing of SCADA Systems at Electric Utilities -	B. Smith, R. Barton, Southern California Edison, USA;
	D. Goughnour, Triangle Microworks Inc., USA	
8:45 – 9:00	Leveraging Private LTE Networks for Direct Transfer Trip (D	TT) Systems - B. Dob, RFL, USA
9:00 – 9:15	Comparative Analysis of Transmission Lines Falling Conduc	tor Protection Methods - C. Adewole, C. Aguilar,
	GE Vernova, USA; A. Marquez, A. Torres, E. Wong, N. Abed, S	outhern California Edison, USA
9:15 – 9:30	Quantum-Safe Grid Communications with MACsec - H. Cha	an, Z. Majzoub, Nokia, Canada
9:30 – 9:45	Enhancing Availability in Process Bus Applications Through	Redundant Merging Units and Sampled Value
	Streams - R. Peres, J. Brandao, E. de Oliveira, SIEMENS, USA	
9:45 – 10:00	A New Approach for Communication Cyber Security: Mana	nging Authorisation, Not Keys - Andrew West,
	Integral SCADA Pty Ltd, Australia	
10:00 - 10:15	Discussions	
10:15 - 10:45	Coffee break at the Exhibition areas at the Raleigh Conve	ention Center

#### Morning Session THM Part 2:

Chair: Alex Apostolov, PAC World, USA

10:45 - 12:30	Interactive Session	- Ask the Experts:
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#### 12:30 – 13:30 Lunch break at the Exhibition areas at the Raleigh Convention Center

Afternoon Ses	sion THA Part 1: Chair: Glenn Wilson, Southern Company, USA
13:30 – 13:45	Wide-Area Terrestrial Time-Distribution System for Resilient Process Bus Based Line Current Differential
	Protection - A. Shrestha, M. Elshafi, A. Hoorjandi, A. Shetty, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc., USA
13:45 – 14:00	Simplifying the Configuration Process for IEC61850-based Systems Through Generative AI Technology - G.
	Fernandes, A. Oliveira Pires, H. León, H. de Lemos, GE Vernova, Brazil; R. Ramlachan, GE Vernova, USA
14:00 – 14:15	A Retrospective on Los Angeles Fires From IOT Network - J. Anderson, Whisker Labs, USA; T. Laughner,
	Lifescale Analytics, USA; B. Marshall, Whisker Labs, USA
14:15 – 14:30	Root Cause Analysis of Misoperation of Line Differential Protection Based on CT Saturation and Its Mitigation -
	M. Bin Gani, J. Holbach, Quanta Technology LLC, USA; N. M. Skoff, M. J. Till, Dominion Energy, USA

14:30 – 14:45	Graph-based Federated Learning for Fault Detection in Power Distribution Systems - D. Bandurin, N.
	Matevosyan, ComEd, USA
14:45 – 15:00	UCA IEC61850 Interop Time Synchronization Testing Takeaways and Conclusions - G. Wrosinghert, W. Abt,
	Meinberg USA, USA
15:00 – 15:15	Discussions
15:15 – 15:45	Coffee break at the Exhibition areas at the Raleigh Convention Center

#### **Afternoon Session THA Part 2:**

#### Chair: Glenn Wilson, Southern Company, USA

15:45 – 16:00	State of Cybersecurity in IEC 61850 - H. Falk, Outside the Box Consulting, USA; G. Godlevski, J. Moore,
	Triangle MicroWorks, USA
16:00 – 16:15	Developing an Electric Power Utility Business Case for Deployment of Digital Substations - C. Dyer, K. Gray,
	POWER Engineers, USA
16:15 – 16:30	Protection Applications with Low-Power instrument Transformers (LPIT) - Proof of Interoperability Under Operating
	Conditions - L. Schulz, P. Schuhmann, J. Sanchez, Siemens Germany, Germany; D. Sheth, Google, USA; A. Stinskiy,
	O. Hartmann, M. Rabinovich, Siemens US, USA
16:30 – 16:45	LUMA Energy Distribution Protection Methods Review for Large-Scale Reclosers Deployment - C. T. Ocasio
	Rodriguez, J. N. Morales Morales, LUMA Energy, Puerto Rico; H. Self, M. Ng, B. Zarovniaev, A. Chandel, M. Baviskar,
	J. Wagner, R. Karandeh, K. Whelan, Quanta Technology, LLC, USA
16:45 – 17:00	Time Out - A Simple Review of PTP for Relay & SCADA Engineers - Pascal Francis-Metzer,
	OMICRON electronics, USA; John Bettler, ComEd, USA
17:00 – 17:15	The Role of IEC 61850 in the Digital Transformation of Electric Power Grids - A. Apostolov, PAC World, USA
17:15 – 17:30	Discussions
17:30	Closing of the Conference

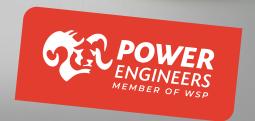
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#### Sunrise Run (NEW!)

#### Sunrise Run through Downtown Raleigh

Wednesday, August 13, 2025, 6:00 - 7:30 am

Raleigh Marriott City Center - 500 Fayetteville St.

Hi PAC World runners,

Want to stretch your legs with others at the conference? Want to see some Raleigh sites in the peaceful morning hours before the conference gets going? This is a friendly run and has options for distances between 3-6 miles

**Meet-up:** 6:00 AM sharp, Wed (Aug 13) outside the Raleigh Marriott City Center — 500 Fayetteville St.

Distance & pace: Up to 6 miles at an easy "chat-while-you-run" tempo (≈10−11 min/mi), regrouping at lights; multiple points to turn back with simple directions to the hotel.

Finish: around 7:30 AM, leaving a solid hour to shower, grab coffee, and slide into the 8:30 AM session.





#### **Become a Speaker**

10<sup>th</sup> Annual

#### **Canada Protection Symposium (CPS)**

Toronto, Canada | November 11-13, 2025

#### **Topics Include**

- > Protection, Automation, Control
- > IEC 61850, Digital Substations
- > New Developments in Testing Methods
- > Lessons Learned, Utility Case Studies
- > DER, Microgrids, and Energy Storage
- > Data Science and AI

#### **Industry Companies Attending**

- > Electric Utilities
- > Universities
- > Testing Companies
- > Consultants
- > Manufacturers

#### Call for Speakers

Our conference theme for this year is Redefining Protection in the Digital Era. Abstracts can be submitted before **August 31st, 2025**.







DNP3 Modbus IEC 60870-5 IEC 60870-6 (TASE.2 / ICCP) IEC 61400-25 (Wind) IEC 61850 Edition 2.1 GOOSE 9-2 (Sampled Values) 7-410 (Hydro) 7-420 (DER)

www.TriangleMicroWorks.com

#### Welcome Reception - at Taverna Agora

#### Monday, August 11, 2025, 6:00 - 8:00pm

To start off the PAC World Conference, we enjoy getting together to catch up and get to know others who are joining the conference. We will provide light appetizers and refreshments to enjoy.

The reception is included in your registration fee. You will need to wear your badge to attend

#### Taverna Agora

326 Hillsborough St, Raleigh, NC 27603 https://www.tavernaagora.com/



# Gala Dinner - at the Jiddi Space & Courtyard A second sec

#### Wednesday, August 13, 2025, 18:00 - 22:00

Join us for our Gala Dinner, where we always have a great time and a great meal!

Plus, we will have some fun entertainment afterward...

This dinner is also when all the photo contest awards are announced, including the popular vote.

Such a fun time to mingle with others from the PAC Community

#### Jiddi Space & Courtyard

137 S Wilmington St, Raleigh, NC 27601

the Gala Dinner is kindly sponsored by: OMICRON electronics





#### **Utility Panels**

#### At Raleigh Convention Center during the Conference Program

We know how much our participants enjoy a good conversation about what is going on within utilities and their experiences. This year, we are offering the following panels which cover a variety of topics and utility panelists. Can't wait to hear the conversations! See the conference schedule for the exact timing.

Each panel listed below has a description about the topic with the panelists and moderator. Expand the ones that interest you.

#### Challenges and Opportunities in Adopting Virtual Protection (Wednesday PM)

As utilities evaluate modernization strategies for medium-voltage substations, the concept of virtualized Protection, Automation, and Control systems is transitioning from theory to practical implementation. This session will examine the current readiness and limitations of virtual solutions based on IEC 61850, with a focus on real-world deployments and engineering considerations.

The use of edge compute infrastructure to host virtualized IED functions Integration of IEC 61850 process bus elements, including GOOSE, Sampled Values, and system configuration via SCL Determinism, cybersecurity, failover behavior, and timing in virtualized protection schemes Operational integration with existing relay protection schemes and utility SCADA systems

Moderator: David Hart (Quanta Technology)

#### Drivers and Benefits in Adopting Digital Substations (Wednesday PM)

With the acceleration of capital projects (new substations and upgrading existing substations), it is increasingly important to look at how to deploy digital substations. Digital substations provide improvements in protection, control, design, compliance, and testing cycles. However, there are many actions that a utility must do to pave the path to digitization that will make the journey successful and sustainable. The panelists will provide real-world experiences in how utilities approach this process. They will touch on the challenges, justification, standards, proof of concept and testing, commissioning, training and more. The goal is to give utilities that are just beginning the digitization of substations process, some valuable information to make the journey more effective and efficient.

Moderator: Jonathan Sykes (Quanta Technology)

#### IBR Integration and the Impacts on the P&C and the Grid (Tuesday AM)

Inverter-based resources (IBRs), such as solar photovoltaic (PV) and wind power systems, have revolutionized the energy landscape by providing clean and renewable sources of electricity. However, these resources also introduce unique reliability challenges to power systems. Several key concerns are their dependency on weather conditions and lack of response to changing or adverse system conditions. Furthermore, inverter-based resources lack inertia, frequency and voltage control, and fault current which traditionally came from conventional generators and helped stabilize grid. Mitigating these challenges requires advanced control and monitoring systems that can detect changing system conditions, automatically recommend and take corrective actions, and stabilize the grid. The panel will be addressing this topic in detail both from a regulatory perspective, as well as from a utility perspective, and looking into practical, real-world solutions.

Moderator: Jonathan Sykes (Quanta Technology)

#### Microgrids in Crisis: Lessons from Hurricane Helene and the Hot Springs Response (Tuesday AM)

The Hot Springs Microgrid in North Carolina was designed to enhance reliability for a remote, single-fed community vulnerable to extended outages. During Hurricane Helene, the microgrid faced its first major test—catastrophic flooding severed access, damaged infrastructure, and disrupted communications. Despite these challenges, the microgrid successfully islanded and restored power to critical services days before grid power was re-established.

The panelists will provide a utility-centric perspective on how microgrids can serve as resilient assets during extreme weather events, and how their design and operation must evolve to meet future grid challenges.

Moderator: Patrick Louka (Duke Energy)

More information is available at: https://conference-americas.pacw.org/utility-panels

#### Conference coordinator:

Angela Sayegh (PAC World, USA)

For any issues and questions related to the organization of the PACW Americas Conference plese e-mail to Angela Sayegh at: angela.sayegh@pacw.org

#### **Local Organizing Committee:**

John Bettler – ComEd; Beth Capeles – Triangle MicroWorks; Jim Coats – Triangle MicroWorks; David G. Hart – Quanta Technology; Rich Hunt – Quanta Technology; Bogdan Kasztenny – Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc; Patrick Louka – Duke Energy; Damir Novosel – Quanta Technology; Glenn Wilson – Southern Company – LOC Committee Chair

#### **Advisory Committee:**

To ensure that the PAC World magazine and conference are at a high level that meets the needs of the industry, we have invited world known experts in the field of electric power systems protection, automation and control as members of the magazine Advisory Board and the conference Advisory Committee.

They help us with their ideas, comments and suggestions to improve the content and quality of the magazine and the conference.

Christoph Brunner (Switzerland) Prof. Peter Crossley (UK) Prof. Xinzhou Dong (China) Jorge Miguel Ordacqi Filho (Brazil) Rodney Hughes (Australia) Prof. Paul Lee (Korea) Rannveig Loken (Norway) Dr. Damir Novosel (USA) Dr. Iony Patriota (Brazil) Prof. Mohindar Sachdev (Canada) Graeme Topham (South Africa) Dr. Volkar Leitloff (France) Rene Troost (The Netherlands) Glenn Wilson (USA) Birkir Heimisson (Iceland)

We want to say "Thank you!" to the people and companies that made PAC World Americas 2025 happen.



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#### **PACW 2026**

April 20-23, 2026 Johannesburg, South Africa



## Call for papers



# PROTECTION, AUTOMATION & CONTROL WORLD

#### **AFRICA CONFERENCE 2026**

Protection, automation and control specialists from around the world are invited to submit abstracts for the PAC World Africa Conference 2026 to:

https://conference-africa.pacw.org

The submission page can also be reached by scanning the QR code

