2024 SUMMIT • ORLANDO, FL
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES
LISTED IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

KEN MANESS
DIRECTOR, RESEARCH, TMG RESEARCH

Ken Maness has been working in the utility space since 2002. He spent over a decade at Energy Central where he worked to connect solution providers and utilities, eventually coming over to TMG Consulting in August of 2020 to launch TMG Research. In his current role, he is responsible for the growth and direction of the research practice, by ensuring the delivery of quality content and insights that help industry professionals drive growth and advance their utility.

AMELIA EARHART
SINGLE-ENGINE AIRCRAFT PILOT WHO FLEW AROUND THE WORLD; PRESIDENT OF FLY WITH AMELIA FOUNDATION

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

As a boundary-pushing around the world pilot, Amelia Rose Earhart knows exactly what it takes to venture into uncharted territory- with confidence.

With the odds stacked against her, Amelia not only trained to become a pilot, but to become the type of pilot to choose honor the person she was named after, Amelia Mary Earhart, by piloting a single-engine airplane (Pilatus PC-12NG) 28,000 Nautical Miles around the globe. To accomplish this, Amelia developed a flight plan all her own, and while reporting full-time as on air, TV helicopter reporter, completed private, instrument and commercial pilot training, crafted an entrepreneurial and strategic business plan to design, fund and market her around the world attempt, raised close to $2 million in partnerships with 28 corporations, founded and ran the Fly With Amelia Foundation, which sent numerous teenage girls to flight school, and more.

Today, Amelia Rose Earhart is a full-time speaker, podcast host, and artist who incorporates the lessons of her 2014 global flight into every aspect of her professional and personal life. Amelia is excited to share the remaining funds from the Fly With Amelia Foundation to another aviation charity helping to promote women in aviation and will be sharing exciting details soon. From the Air Force Thunderbirds to the Reagan Library, to corporations like Capital One, Lockheed Martin and United Healthcare, Amelia's list of clients who trust her message of agility continues to grow.

Amelia is currently submitting her manuscript, The Ups and the Downs of Turbulence, which she wrote with author Kristin Clark Taylor, during Winter of 2020. Memorabilia from Amelia's flight around the world can be found at her permanent display at Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum in Denver, CO.

ANKUSH AGARWAL
DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION, EXELON

Ankush Agarwal is a business, analytics, and transformation leader with 20+ years of experience in research, development and implementation of strategies and scalable programs to enable a sustainable innovation and data-driven culture, transform operational/ risk functions, and solve complex problems. Ankush is a respected leader in the industry, serving on Utility Analytic Institute's (UAI) Strategic Advisory Board, Safety Analytics Community Sponsor, Association of Edison Illuminating Companies (AEIC) Analytics Council Chairperson, and Grid Forward Advisory board.

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VLADYSLAV ANDERSON
PRINCIPAL QUANTITATIVE ENGINEER, EXELON

Vladyslav (Vlad) Anderson is currently a principal quantitative engineer at Exelon's Infrastructure and Safety Analytics team, bringing over ten years of experience in the utility space. His expertise includes capacity planning, load forecasting, distributed energy resource analysis, AI and big data applications for utilities, distribution automation, and operational utility technologies. In his current role, he leads and supports the development of AI and data-driven solutions for Exelon's electric grid, focusing on asset failure prediction, enhancing storm readiness, asset defect detection, and failure analytics.

PAUL BROOKER
MANAGER OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, ORLANDO UTILITIES COMMISSION

Dr. Brooker earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Brigham Young University in 2004, and his PhD in Chemical Engineering from University of Connecticut in 2009.

Prior to joining OUC, Dr. Brooker worked as an Assistant Research Professor at UCF's Florida Solar Energy Center. While at FSEC, Dr. Brooker's research areas included hydrogen-fueled polymer electrolyte membrane fuel cells (PEMFCs), vanadium flow batteries, solar cell manufacturing and electric vehicle utilization. He has participated in several federally-funded projects, including the Fuel Cell High-Temperature Membrane Working Group, the US Photovoltaic Manufacturing Consortium, the Electric Vehicle Transportation Center, and the Solar Energy Innovators Program.

Dr. Brooker is Manager of Emerging Technologies, and has been working with OUC since 2018. In his current role, he guides research and demonstration projects that investigate the impact of new technologies on grid operations, particularly when deployed at utility-scales. These technologies include solar, storage, hydrogen, drones, and electric transportation.

KATE COKER
DISTRIBUTION ASSET AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT, DOMINION

With over two decades of experience across various operational roles within Dominion Energy, Kate currently serves as the senior Operations Specialist within DE's Distribution Asset and Program Management Team. Her expertise includes electric distribution asset inspections, performance analytics, improving processes, and problem solving. In her present role, she has been challenged with leading the development of the Company's asset management system, and performance modeling and reporting applications.

SCOTT WALDMANN
GIS ANALYTICS AND QUALITY CONTROL MANAGER, DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA

Scott is a Leader in Duke Energy's Customer Delivery Governance, Programs & Support organization. He oversees GIS Analytics and Quality Control providing tools for business intelligence for the company's distribution & transmission assets. He also provides GIS support for the landbase and transmission department. He serves as the Customer Delivery lead on the new Next Generation GIS project that will replace and transform Duke Energy's GIS for future grid demands. He started with the company 33 years ago as an electrical engineering graduate from University of South Florida.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

AMIT SINHA
DIRECTOR ARTIFICIAL AND MACHINE LEARNING, LOCANA

Amit Sinha is a leader in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning and is responsible for driving AI and ML initiatives at Locana - a TRC Company. He holds a Ph.D. in Optimization and Automatic Differentiation used to train deep neural networks. He has more than 22 years of experience in GIS, software engineering, machine learning and artificial intelligence. He has operationalized Predictive and Generative AI in many projects. He is passionate about learning how humans think and experiments with simulating human thought process in machines to solve problems that benefit humanity. He has published papers in reputable peer reviewed journals and written chapters in books on geospatial technology, big data, remote sensing, and optimization in machine learning. He strongly believes in teamwork, and has experience with team building, mentoring, and working collaboratively with cross- functional teams to derive synergy in AI and software development.

JACK GARDNER
CLOUD AND DIGITAL PRACTICE LEADER, PWC

Jack is a leader within PwC's Cloud and Digital practice, with more than 20 years of GIS and utilities experience. He has a wide range of utility experience including integrating GIS technology and solutions, GIS implementations, mobile application deployment, conflation, and business process development. Jack will help deliver the NextGen GIS program at Duke Energy where they will be transforming their GIS ecosystem driving efficiency, effectiveness, and quality to improve their business

LUKE WESTFAHL
SR. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS CONSULTANT, LOCANA

Luke is a seasoned GIS Pro with nearly 20 years of experience in the energy space, working with a number of large upstream, midstream, and utility companies. He brings a broad-based set of skills and experience to Locana including GIS system integrations, machine learning, multispectral image analysis, pipeline regulatory compliance, logistics, predictive analytics and more. Luke's business acumen allows him to solve complex business challenges using GIS technology. Luke is leading the conflation workstream for Duke NextGen GIS which will move Duke to the Utility Network in both Electric and Gas commodities.

MONICA BRANDEIS,
PHD IN CROWD SOURCE GIS, LOCANA

Dr. Brandeis has over 15 years of experience applying geospatial solutions to diverse clients and projects from every aspect for spatial information. She has experienced everything GIS (Geographic Information System) from training, mapping, analytics, engineering, and even system development. Her involvement in GIS industry is ranging from infrastructure, conservation, utility, government data, and commercial base map applications. In addition to her depth and width involvement of any aspect of GIS, her PhD research is crowd-source GIS, and she has been focusing on big data pipeline development, data quality, data conflation, and AI/ML technology integration in last few years.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

BENJAMIN SPANSWICK
DIRECTOR DATA SCIENCE AND MACHINE LEARNING, PPL

Ben Spanswick has been working in the data science space, and building highly effective data science teams, for 13 years. He was responsible for launching and growing the FBI's Data Science Center of Excellence. He transitioned to PPL in 2019 to grow their data science organization and has been enjoying the unique challenges faced in the industry. He holds undergraduate degrees in Psychology and Risk Analysis from The Pennsylvania State University, and holds a MS of Data Science from Southern Methodist University.

JENNIFER KAMINSKY
MANAGER – ELECTRIC ASSETS & COMPLIANCE, SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC

Jennifer is currently the Manager - Electric Assets & Compliance at San Diego Gas & Electric. Her team has responsibility for oversight and management of SDG&E's electric distribution inspection program, joint asset management and other CPUC compliance reporting. She formally worked as a Project Manager at SDG&E specializing in complex transmission and distribution construction Projects, as well as the development the Company's first drone inspection program. Prior to that, she worked in SDG&E's Environmental Department on large utility construction projects and with Burns & McDonnell as an Associate specializing in environmental permitting, regulatory and compliance matters for a variety of projects. She is a licensed attorney and a graduate of the University of Michigan (Go BLUE!).

STAN MCHANN
JR. CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER, UIIC

Stan is involved in cloud computing and network technologies, grid analytics, sensors, Imaging, and drones. He is a noted industry expert in SCADA, AMI/AMR, advanced sensors, and holds several patents on advanced control algorithms for power grids. For the past decade his work has focused on the next generation of advanced grid analytics, electric utility data-driven models, and imaging technology

He is licensed by the FAA as a Private Pilot, an Unmanned Aircraft System Pilot and Airframe and Powerplant license. He served in the US Air Force and was awarded with a Commendation Medal and Missile Badge.

Prior to joining Sparkmeter, Stan was a Sr. Research Engineer and Chief Pilot at the National Rural Electric Coop Association (still serving there), Chief Technology Officer at Milsoft Utility Systems where he was responsible for all Milsoft products including OMS, GIS, EA, and IVR, Director of Technology at Landis+Gyr, Dell Technologies, 3Com, and the USAF.

PO-CHEN CHEN
MANAGER OF DATA SCIENCE, EXELON

Po-Chen Chen is currently a data science manager in Exelon's Infrastructure and Safety Analytics team. He is responsible for collaborating with various internal stakeholder and external partners to understand business needs and deploy analytics-based solutions, focusing on premier customer experience, operating performance improvement, and increasing safety practices. With 10+ years of experience, his expertise includes distributed generation, power system protection and control, voltage quality and stability studies, geographical information system, machine learning and AI technologies, and big data applications for distribution system.

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JOSH POWER
CAPABILITY LEAD – DATA, ADVANCED ANALYTICS, AUTOMATION, AND AI
ONCOR

Josh serves as Capability Lead – Data, Advanced Analytics, Automation, and AI at Oncor Electric Delivery. His organization is responsible for enabling the development, delivery, and operations of next generation technologies and platforms to support digital transformation at Oncor. Josh has been with Oncor since 2016 serving in various leadership capacities in the Technology organization. He has served in his current role for the past 5 years. He has 20+ years of IT experience, including 13 years of experience as an Energy focused IT consultant prior to joining Oncor. Josh has spent most of his life in the Oncor service territory. He has also lived in Los Angeles, London, and beautiful College Station, TX where he received his BBA in Business Analysis (MIS) from Texas A&M University.

WILL FARMER
PROGRAM MANAGER – IMAGERY MANAGEMENT AND ANALYTICS
DOMINION

Will serves Dominion Energy Virginia currently as a Program Manager for Remote Sensing, Imagery Management & Analytics at Dominion Energy Virginia. In this role, Will is charged with planning and implementing a Remote Sensing, Imagery Management, and Analytics program to support Dominion's Electric Distribution transition to a more modern and reliable electric grid.   Prior to his current role, Will has served various roles supporting GIS for over 15 years with a focus on web and mobile applications.

DOUG DORR
TECHNICAL ADVISER, EPRI

Doug Dorr is a Technical Executive with the Electric Power Research Institute. Over a thirty-year career with EPRI Doug has led many research initiatives in the power delivery and energy utilization areas including EPRI's Data Science for Distribution Modernization Initiative, and most recently EPRI's Extreme Weather and Wildfire Events Initiative. Doug also manages EPRI's distribution asset analytics for reliability and resilience R&D.