

Two Xcel Energy teams receive EPRI awards

Awards spotlight value of collaborative research

By: Chris Kelleher 

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Two teams of Xcel Energy employees were recently recognized by the Electric Power Research Institute, Inc. (EPRI, www.epri.com (<http://www.epri.com>)) with 2016 Technology Transfer Awards. These annual awards recognize the leaders and innovators who have applied EPRI research to produce significant results by solving a problem of size and significance, champion a technology both within their companies and across the industry, drive progress in the electricity sector, and provide meaningful benefits for its stakeholders and for society. The awards spotlight the value of collaborative research to the electricity sector and its customers.

Here are details about the two Xcel Energy teams that received the awards:

Streamlined Hosting Capacity – This project was a collaboration between EPRI and Distribution Engineering & Planning, in which Xcel Energy strongly influenced the design of the software. Business Systems provided strong project management and integration service, resulting in the ability to analyze individual electric feeders to determine hosting capability for Distributed Energy Resources (DER) installations. Hosting capacity is the ability of a feeder to accommodate additional generation, commonly solar or wind. Benefits included an improved ability to meet Minnesota PUC requirements for feeder capacity analysis and annual cost savings of \$180,000 through in-sourcing analysis and reduced backlog of customer requests for interconnection. Team members included Kelly Youse, Paul Imhoff, Steve Loscheider, Damian Kilday and Mary Kay Duquette from Business Systems; as well as Brian Amundson, Chris Punt and Jason Feldmeier from Distribution.

Weld Repair Technique – A collaborative effort between personnel from EPRI, Xcel Energy and the repair vendor (General Electric) to develop a weld-repair technique at the Rocky Mountain Energy Center. The alternative repairs provide additional options to better manage various components. Team members included Eric Dupont and Mike Webb of Energy Supply.

EPRI conducts research and development relating to the generation, delivery and use of electricity for the benefit of the public. An independent nonprofit organization, EPRI brings together its scientists and engineers, as well as experts from academia and industry to help address challenges in electricity, including reliability, efficiency, affordability, health, safety and the environment. EPRI also provides technology, policy and economic analyses to drive long-

range research and development planning, and supports research in emerging technologies. EPRI members represent 90 percent of the electric utility revenue in the United States with international participation in 35 countries.



Left: Chris Punt (left), senior engineer, Distribution, receives the Technology Transfer Award for the Streamlined Hosting Capacity project. Right: Receiving the Technology Transfer Award for the Weld Repair Technique project (from left): Drew Michalov, welding engineer, General Electric; Mike Webb, production specialist, Energy Supply; Eric Dupont, principal engineer, Energy Supply; and Tom Alley, vice president-Generation, EPRI.



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There are so many incredibly intelligent people in Xcel Energy's workforce: great to see recognition for it. Keep your eyes peeled for patent opportunities! Alternative revenue streams can ease the O&M squeeze. :-)

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Posted by Paula Brown on 04/21/2017 10:46:33 AM

Great job teams! Value for EPRI investment comes down to applying their technology to achieve our internal business priority/initiative either through creating a new path or accelerating speed on an existing path.

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Posted by Ward Scharmer on 04/21/2017 09:39:41 AM

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