

**API NEWSLETTER (SEPTEMBER 2019)**

**API 2019 INAUGURAL ENERGY INNOVATION SUMMIT: Supporting API's initiative to strengthen academic quality and industry experience to enhance student university education**

The Australian Power Institute supported by its industry partners, Energy Networks Australia and CIGRE Australia held its first inaugural API ENERGY INNOVATION SUMMIT on 27 & 28 August at the Brisbane Airport Conference Centre with strong support from the energy industry and university/research organisations with:

- Over 40 industry representatives
- Over 40 university/research representatives from 11 universities across Australia
- 8 university exhibitions showcasing university research capabilities



A Keynote Address by Alex Wonhas, Chief System Design and Engineering Officer, AEMO on “Innovation in Energy” set the scene for the significant challenges and opportunities facing the energy industry and the importance of innovation needed to address these.

Mike Griffin, Chief Executive, The Australian Power Institute (API) outlined the API & Energy Networks Australia’s Innovation Framework objectives and approach and stressed the importance of:

- Industry leading the innovation project/initiatives and project scoping
- A true collaboration between industry and universities/researchers based on capability to support the project and where appropriate diverse skills (multidisciplinary)
- A “one team” approach with strong engagement between industry and researchers underpinned by a project management methodology



This was followed by an interactive session with the API & Energy Networks Australia Innovation Steering Group of Wayne Tucker (TasNetworks), Gerard Reiter (TransGrid), Craig Savage (United Energy), Steve Wachtel (SA Power Networks) and Monishka Narayan (Energy Networks Australia).

The API Energy Innovation Summit program was organised to maximise interaction and engagement between 5 existing and 2 proposed new innovation project teams – as opposed to the traditional Conference presentation format. This was well received by the over 80 delegates in attendance who all appreciated the opportunity to understand and question the work of the projects and to provide their ideas and input.

The 5 existing current projects/initiatives showcased/reviewed over 4 hours were:

- Management of Voltages in LV Networks
- Conductor Condition Monitoring
- Quantifying Extreme Bushfire Consequences
- Solar Enablement Initiative
- Australasian Transformer Innovation Centre



Further details of the first 3 projects can be found at Energy Networks Australia website at: <https://www.energynetworks.com.au/industry-research-and-development>

On the second day, sessions were held to capture learnings from the existing projects (including possible collaboration opportunities) and to look to the future through 2 potential new projects, these being:

- Active Electric Vehicle Integration into the Electricity System to Optimise Benefits for All Stakeholders
- Management of System Stability & Protection for MicroGrids/Edge of Grid Systems with Distributed Energy Resources



The API Energy Innovation Summit also provided the opportunity for universities to have an exhibition booth to showcase their work and capability and provide a meeting place to network with industry and research attendees. The universities/research groups who held exhibition booths were:

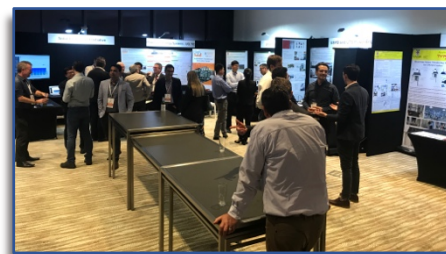


- Solar Enablement Initiative Project
- University of Queensland/Transformer Innovation Centre
- Monash University
- University of New South Wales
- University of Technology Sydney/The University of Sydney
- Wollongong University
- Adelaide University

Delegate Feedback on the Summit was very positive with the following responses received:

- Value of attending the Summit: 8/10 extremely valuable
- Would recommend Summit to colleagues/managers/supervisors: 8.1/10 highly likely
- Comments received included:
  - Excellent opportunity to learn about ongoing uni-industry projects and challenges
  - Excellent opportunity for utilities and academics to come together with a common goal
  - Outstanding opportunity for collaboration, networking and future thinking
  - Best collaboration between researchers and industry that I have observed
  - Useful, interactive deep dive into an industry driven project
  - High quality dialogue on all the topics, thought provoking and opportunity for input
  - First step in building meaningful collaboration with success
  - Align universities and industry’s expectations
  - Great session – would benefit from more industry presence
  - Provided the opportunity to meet industry reps and discuss real world issues
  - Really good inaugural event – would like to see more attendees as that would enhance the experience even more

The Australian Power Institute looks forward to facilitating this Summits again in the future to continue the project collaborations in continued efforts to strengthen academic quality and industry experience to enhance student university education



The API would like to finally extend a sincere thank you to the University Exhibitors and Summit Partners for their participation and support.

