
TUES

September 24

Cleveland, Ohio

7:00am – 8:00am **Breakfast & Registration**

8:00am – 8:15am **Welcome and Agenda Review**

8:15am – 8:45am **Keynote Presentation – FirstEnergy**

Ron Long of FirstEnergy will share the opening keynote presentation, setting the tone for an event filled with innovation and collaboration.

8:45am – 9:15am **Delivering Value Through Partnerships**

Over the past 25 years, GSI has partnered with technology companies including Esri, Microsoft, Panasonic Connect, and Trimble to bring our customers cutting-edge hardware and software solutions. GSI is embarking on a new strategic collaboration with Implementation Partners such as POWER Engineers, RAMTeCH, and UDC, to ensure smooth and effective deployment and integration of our Distribution Design Studio (DDS) suite. These partnerships will optimize productivity and deliver superior outcomes for our customers.

9:15am – 10:15am **What’s New in DDS**

GSI will cover the major enhancements added to DDS over the past 12 months.

10:15am – 10:30am **Break**

10:30am – 11:15am **Improve User Engagement: FirstEnergy Roadshows**

Following the production rollout of DDS, FirstEnergy and GSI embarked on a six month in-person training “Roadshow” to increase user acceptance. This presentation will cover the logistics involved along with a summary of the successes, challenges and next steps.

11:15am – 11:45am **Remote Training Initiative: Teaching DDS’s Joint Use Functionality**

In this session, we’ll cover AEP’s initiative to train hundreds of users across multiple states using ReadyTech Virtual Training Solution with the help of GSI’s training and support staff. We’ll discuss AEP’s need for going remote, establishing the virtual environment, tracking user engagement, and the benefits/challenges to remote learning.

11:45am – 1:00pm **Lunch**

1:00pm – 1:45pm **Panel Discussion: GPS/GNSS Mobile Design Components**

This panel of experts will discuss the advantages of using GPS/GNSS hardware in your daily design activities. These seasoned professionals, who work directly in the field or with field hardware and software applications, will share insights on how leveraging precise positioning technology enhances efficiency, accuracy, and productivity. From surveying to infrastructure design, discover how GNSS hardware can transform the way you approach engineering tasks.

1:45pm – 2:30pm **Pole and Equipment Inspection**

We will be showcasing GSI’s field inspection work management software, highlighting its robust features and capabilities. Additionally, we will demonstrate potential integration points with DDS, illustrating how the two systems complement each other to enhance operational efficiency.

2:30pm – 2:45pm Break

2:45pm – 3:30pm Panel Discussion: Customer Support “Navigating Changes and Scalability”

This panel discussion focuses on current DDS customers, exploring how each organization is structured and positioned to support the DDS landscape. Additionally, we'll highlight GSI's collaboration with these companies. The goal is to foster a productive dialogue among the panelists and participants, allowing attendees to think critically while listening to different viewpoints.

3:30pm – 4:30pm Insights From a Distribution Design Studio User Group

In this presentation, you will hear about the DDS User Group that meets quarterly to explore and share insights on how they utilize DDS to achieve their goals. From these collaborative sessions emerged valuable ideas and suggestions, which will be shared during the presentation.

4:30pm Day 1 Wrap-up

7:00pm Evening Event – Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

First bus departs at 5:45 PM — Second bus departs at 6:05 PM

WEDS

September 25

Cleveland, Ohio

7:00am – 8:00am Breakfast

8:00am – 8:15am Opening Safety Message and Agenda Review

8:15am – 8:45am Leveraging Partner Software and Services

GSI is forging strategic partnerships with leading technology companies who bring unique software or services that complement and enhance specific workflows within our Distribution Design Studio (DDS) ecosystem. Companies such as C.W. Wright, RAMTeCH and Woolpert offer specialized solutions in areas like as-built reporting, joint use, and imagery, to extend and streamline advanced workflows. By incorporating these specialized capabilities, GSI provides a more tailored and robust suite of tools that meet diverse client needs. This segment of our partner program underscores our commitment to innovation and excellence in delivering cutting-edge solutions to the market.

8:45am – 9:30am Best Practices for an Esri UN + DDS Implementation

Are you planning an Esri UN implementation? Managing a GIS migration and new deployment or upgrade of DDS simultaneously poses challenges, but with the right blend of cooperation, communication, and collaboration, there are significant advantages. David Little will discuss recent projects as well as other related current and future initiatives.

9:30am – 10:15am Panel Discussion: Imagery and LiDAR in the Utility Industry

Join us for an enlightening panel discussion where we delve into the integration of Imagery and LiDAR technology within the utility sector. Our panel of seasoned industry specialists will explore the diverse range of imagery options, delve into the latest technical advancements, and discuss how utilities can leverage and manage this data to enhance their decision-making processes, ultimately boosting resilience and operational reliability.

10:15am – 10:30am Break

10:30am – 11:45am The Joint Use Process in Action: Data Collection in the Field & Make Ready in the Office

In this panel discussion, industry experts will explain the critical process of collecting accurate and relevant joint use attachment data in the field. We'll dig into what data is gathered and how it is subsequently shared with other applications for additional analysis and evaluation, with a specific focus on DDS. Join us to gain valuable insights critical to the Joint Use Attachment field collection and evaluation process.

11:45pm – 1:00pm Lunch

1:00pm – 1:25pm As-Built Workflows and Reporting

GSI will facilitate an interactive discussion on the as-built reporting requirements for electric distribution assets, emphasizing the role of DDS in this process.

1:25pm – 1:45pm Solving Spatial Inaccuracies with Targeted Conflation

When utilities encounter inaccurate spatial data due to land base changes, updated imagery, or new construction drawings, it's crucial to adjust this data to reflect real-world conditions. Join RAMTeCH as they share how conflation processes enable end users to transform utility data—whether for large or small areas—into up-to-date, spatially accurate land base data.

1:45pm – 2:30pm Esri Ecosystem-Driven Enhancements

In the dynamic world of geospatial technology, the Esri ecosystem serves as a cornerstone for innovation and operational excellence. We will discuss the integration of GSI data within the Esri ecosystem. We will highlight the potential for direct editing of GIS in DDS. Join us to explore how these enhancements are not only streamlining processes but also empowering users with a more intuitive map-driven user experience.

2:30pm – 2:45pm Break

2:45pm – 3:15pm Customer Success Management

At last year's User Conference, we introduced the concept of Customer Success Management (CSM), which is a proactive and strategic approach to ensuring customer satisfaction, retention, and growth. CSM is not just a service or a function, but a mindset and a culture that permeates our entire organization. In this presentation, we will explore the success categories we have established as integral components of CSM, helping to create productive and highly successful DDS customers.

3:15pm – 4:15pm Generative AI & Machine Learning

Generative AI and machine learning stand at the forefront of innovation. Our presentation delves into the transformative potential of these technologies, showcasing their application in enhancing productivity and driving business solutions. We will explore the integration of generative AI within the DDS framework and Esri GeoAI. Attendees will gain insights into the latest advancements, including the use of generative AI for email productivity and collaborative tools like Microsoft Teams. Join us to discover how generative AI and machine learning are not just shaping the future but revolutionizing the present.

4:15pm DDS User Conference Recap & Closing Remarks

6:30pm Evening Event – Goodtime III Charter Ship

Board ship at 6:30 PM, Departs at 7:00 PM, Returns to dock at 9:30 PM .
First bus departs at 5:45 PM — Second bus departs at 6:05 PM