

2025 GeoSpatial Innovations Design Conference Agenda

September 30 – October 2, 2025

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel - Dearborn, Michigan

Tuesday, September 30

- 7:00am – 8:00am: **Breakfast & Registration**
- 8:00am – 8:15am: **Welcome and Agenda Review**
- 8:15am – 8:45am: **Keynote Presentation – TBD**
Opening keynote presentation, setting the tone for an event filled with innovation and collaboration.
- 8:45am – 9:15am: **3 Pillars of Success for DDS**
Discover the guiding principles that shape the future of utility design. This session will showcase the Three Pillars of DDS: Human-Centric Solutions, Intelligent Innovations, and Collaboration & Services, and how each plays a role in delivering smarter, more efficient utility workflows. Attendees will gain insight into how these pillars influence our platform development, support customer success, and ensure that we remain adaptable to the evolving needs of the utility industry.
- 9:15am – 10:15am: **What's New in DDS**
GSI will cover the major enhancements added to DDS over the past 12 months, as well as previewing important innovations on the roadmap.
- 10:15am – 10:30am: **Break**
- 10:30am – 11:15am: **AEP's Strategy for Managing Surging Third-party Attachments**
As utilities continue to face a growing volume of third-party attachment requests, managing workflows efficiently has become more critical than ever. In this session, AEP will share how it is addressing these challenges of increased demand, evolving regulatory requirements, and coordination across multiple stakeholders. Attendees will learn AEP's strategy and supporting tools that help streamline approvals, maintain data accuracy, and keep projects moving, all while balancing utility priorities and customer needs.
- 11:15am – 11:45am: **DDS Virtual Training Solutions**
Has your company struggled to efficiently train large groups of users across various locations? This session will showcase GSI's virtual training approach that has helped companies scale training efforts using remote training resources. Attendees will learn how customized training environments, structured curriculum, and real-time instructor support have empowered users to build confidence and proficiency in DDS while being trained remotely.
- 11:45am – 1:00pm: **Lunch**

- 1:00pm – 1:45pm: **Mobile Design & Surveying: Trends and Techniques**
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 mobile design can transform the way you approach engineering tasks.
- 1:45pm – 2:30 pm: **Introducing GSI's DDS Certified Engineering Partners**
GSI's DDS Certified Engineering Partner initiative recognizes engineering partners who demonstrate qualified expertise in DDS, a commitment to quality design, and a strong alignment with customer success outcomes. We'll explore the criteria for certification, showcase examples of partner impact, and discuss how this initiative strengthens collaboration between GSI, our partners and utility companies.
- 2:30pm– 2:45pm: **Break**
- 2:45pm – 3:15pm: **Workflow Enhancements in DDS**
This session will explore the latest enhancements to workflows in DDS, focusing on features that streamline design, improve accuracy, and support evolving utility needs. GSI experts will demonstrate how these updates simplify project setup, workflow, and data capture in the field. Whether you're managing new service requests or replacement projects, these tools are built to accelerate delivery while ensuring safety and compliance.
- 3:15pm – 3:45pm: **Transmission Design: Modern Approaches and Innovations**
Explore the latest advancements in design using DDS tailored for transmission projects. GSI experts will provide insight into how transmission design teams can use DDS to address challenges like long-span design, complex routing, and integration with utility standards. Attendees will gain practical knowledge on how these enhancements will improve the overall accuracy and quality of their transmission design.
- 3:45pm – 4:15pm: **GSI Software Compliance & Organization**
This brief presentation will focus on the extensive efforts GSI puts forth to protect and handle data (SOC 2).
- 4:15pm: **Wrap-up of Sessions**
- 6:00pm: **Tuesday Night Social at Hotel**

Wednesday, October 1st

7:00am – 8:00am: **Breakfast**

8:00am – 8:15 am: **Opening Safety Message & Agenda Review.**

8:15am – 8:45am: **Keynote Presentation**
Day two opening keynote presentation

8:45am – 10:15am: **DDS8: Transforming Utility Design**
Join us for an informative discussion where we explore how DDS8 is evolving utility design. We'll highlight the integration of new features, data inputs, and workflow improvements that are driving greater efficiency in design processes. GSI experts will share real-world applications, discuss how utilities can leverage DDS8, and preview what's in this version of DDS.

10:15am – 10:30am: **Break**

10:30am – 11:45am: **DDS8: Innovative AI Solutions**
GSI experts will build on the topics covered in 2024's conference, highlighting how AI capabilities are integrated into DDS8. Learn how AI is applied to streamline utility workflows, enhance data accuracy, and reduce manual processes. We'll walk through some practical examples that demonstrate how these new tools are transforming the way users interact with DDS.

11:45am – 1:00pm: **Lunch**

1:00pm – 1:45pm: **Completing the Digital Workflow: As-Built Reporting**
Join us for a dynamic presentation on the longstanding topic of as-built workflows and reporting. We will explore some methods that we think will streamline this process to ensure accuracy of assets in the field and the importance of those records in the GIS and other systems.

1:45pm – 2:30pm: **Imagery and Lidar in the Utility Industry**
Building on a popular topic from last year, we will again lean on industry experts as they describe the integration of Imagery and LiDAR technology within the utility sector. The panel will dive into the diverse range of imagery options, showcase the latest technological advancements, and discuss how utilities can leverage and manage this data to enhance their decision-making processes, which in turn will boost resilience and operational reliability.

2:30pm – 2:45pm: **Break**

2:45pm – 3:15pm: **Location Intelligence with Esri AI**
Explore how Esri's advanced AI capabilities are powering smarter location intelligence across the world and more specifically with the utility sector. In this session, Esri will present how Esri tools are being used to analyze geospatial data, detect patterns, and support decision-making in utility design workflows. Attendees will learn how the coming integration of Esri AI and DDS will enhance their workflows beyond recognition.

- 3:15pm – 4:15pm: **Harnessing AI for Smarter Utility Vegetation Management**
AI is no longer a concept of the future; it is reshaping how utilities will manage vegetation today. Join GSI's Mike Hamsa, as he showcases the cutting-edge tools and techniques that use AI to analyze imagery, streamline inspections, and proactively address vegetation threats to the grid. Attendees will be able to learn AI-driven strategies that will help boost reliability, cut costs, and stay ahead of risk.
- 4:15pm – 4:30pm: **Wrap-up of Sessions**
- 6:00 pm: **Evening Event – The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation**



Thursday, October 2nd – Half-Day Breakout Sessions

- 7:00am – 8:00am: Breakfast
- 8:00am – 12:00 pm: **DDS Advanced Workflows**
Join the GSI Team for training on advanced workflows and “ask the experts” about DDS in this interactive session.
- 8:00am – 12:00 pm: **DDS User Group Workshop**
Join the DDS User Group for open discussion, shared experiences, and collaborative dialogue around the production use of DDS at each company.
- 8:00am – 12:00 pm: **Forester and Inspection Workshop**
Meet with the GSI Forester Team to explore utility vegetation management and inspector workflows, featuring live demos and user-driven Q&A.