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 – 9:15 am: **Keynote Presentation – Carl Livingood (GSI)**
Opening keynote presentation, setting the tone for an event filled with innovation and collaboration.

9:15am – 10:15am: **What's New in DDS – Jarod Tait (GSI)**
GSI will cover the major DDS enhancements from the past 12 months.

10:15am – 10:30am: ***Break***

10:30am – 11:15am: **AEP's Strategy for Managing Surging Third-party Attachments – Raul Lopez (AEP)**
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 – April Hines (GSI)**
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 – Tyler Livingood (GSI), Matt Tackett (AEP), Ken Greenwood (Ques/NorthWestern Energy), Gary Blacksmith (Tangibl, Inc.)**
A group of field design 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 Program– April Hines (GSI)**
Learn how the DDS Certified Engineering Partner program positions engineering firms as a trusted leader in utility design while offering utilities direct access to certified DDS experts. This session outlines how certification enhances visibility, unlocks exclusive resources, and fosters strategic collaboration with GSI—driving growth for partners and delivering proven value to utilities seeking reliable design solutions.

2:30pm– 2:45pm: **Break**

2:45pm – 3:15pm: **Custom User Interface (UI) Enhancements in DDS – David Little (GSI)**
DDS supports numerous workflows and job types, but this session will explore how the DDS UI can be configured for a specific user type or job type. GSI will demonstrate how these updates simplify project setup, workflow, and an optimized UI.

3:15pm – 3:45pm: **Transmission Design in DDS – Tim McNabb (GSI)**
Explore the latest advancements in design using DDS tailored for transmission projects. GSI experts will provide insight into how DDS can be used to address challenges like long-span design, galloping conditions, and multi-pole structures. 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 – Mike Hamsa (GSI)**
This 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 keynote presentation, setting the tone for another day filled with innovation and collaboration.

8:45am – 10:15am: **DDS8: Transforming Utility Design – Matt Rickard (GSI)**
DDS8 introduces a modernized architecture for utility design, built to support scalability, performance, and long-term innovation. This session will focus on the technical evolution of the platform, including its migration to the latest .NET platform. The presentation will also cover strategies and timeline for migration and how the new architecture positions DDS8 for future enhancements, including AI and machine learning.

10:15am – 10:30am: **Break**

10:30am – 11:45am: **DDS8: Innovative AI Solutions – Bill Breitenbach (GSI),**
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 – Matt Rickard (GSI), Danny Petrecca (Locusview), Austin Deeds (Locusview)**
This topic explores the modernization of utility as-built workflows, tracing the shift from traditional, manual processes to integrated digital solutions. It begins with a review of historical workflows, highlighting challenges in accuracy and coordination. The session then introduces Locusview, a mobile-first Digital Construction Management platform that provides an industry-first Guided Redlining workflow to enhance field data capture and real-time asset tracking. Finally, it details the integration of DDS with Locusview, showcasing how API-driven data exchange streamlines collaboration between designers and field crews and improves operational efficiencies by significantly reducing the time and effort for operational and financial closeout.

1:45pm – 2:30pm: **Imagery and Lidar in the Utility Industry – Tom Lenzen (Esri), Mike Battles (Woolpert), Matt Shellenberger (AEP)**
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 trends in the use of imagery and lidar data in their day-to-day workflows, 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: **Geospatial Intelligence with Esri's AI Framework– Reece Golz (Esri) , Matt Baber (Esri)**
Explore how Esri's advanced AI capabilities are powering smarter geospatial intelligence across the world and more specifically with the utility sector. In this session, Esri will present how Esri's AI Framework is being used to analyze geospatial data, detect patterns, and support decision-making in utility workflows. Attendees will learn how Esri and AI will enhance their workflows.

3:15pm – 4:15pm: **Harnessing AI for Smarter Utility Vegetation Management – Mike Hamsa (GSI)**
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 with existing vegetation management and reliability data to help you make better decisions. 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: **Design Smarter with DDS: Expert Insights & Interactive Q&A**
Join the GSI experts for an interactive workshop where we dive into the complex functionality of DDS. In this seminar we will go over simple to advanced examples to show various tips & tricks to make your everyday design work easy. The floor will be open for feedback and discussion - so Bring your Questions, Bring your Challenges, and Bring your DDS!

8:00am – 12:00 pm: **DDS User Group Workshop**

An invitation-only session run by the DDS User Group. DDS customers and invited guests will collaborate on business processes, share best practices, and help shape the future direction of DDS.