

FALL 2021 MEETING WILL BE IN-PERSON IN MILWAUKEE

With 251 responses to a July survey of Committee Members, we were able to extrapolate likely in-person attendance numbers for a mid-October meeting to be between 49% and 73% of “normal” attendance. After reviewing these survey results and analyzing the potential penalty of over US\$200,000 if we cancel our in-person meeting without cause, the Committee officers decided unanimously that the Fall 2021 Transformers Committee meeting take place in-person in Milwaukee, WI as previously planned.

Since making this decision and communicating it to those that were asked to be involved in the survey, the Committee’s officers and meeting planners have been meeting regularly to make additional decisions that we feel are in the best interests of the health and safety of our many meeting participants as we transition back to the in-person meeting format. The meeting’s COVID protocols as well as updated activity information will be available on the Committee’s website as they become available, so please check the website regularly for updates: <https://www.transformerscommittee.org/meetings/2021-fall-milwaukee/>.

Earlier this year, some significant changes occurred within the 123Signup* organization that have prompted the owner of 123Signup to notify PES that the 123Signup platform will not be supported beyond the end of this summer. This is a devastating blow to the Transformers Committee, because we are highly invested in the system for not only meeting registration but also Association Management, meeting attendance recording and email communications such as these.

At this point, we have no immediate replacement for the 123Signup system. PES has created an ad hoc committee to discuss the requirements needed in a replacement system and the Transformers Committee has two people participating on that committee. In the meantime, we have been proactive in downloading and time-stamping the database that contains activity membership info and attendance records. We will continue to do this for as long as the system is available as records do change periodically. When a new platform for member management becomes available and has been updated, these downloaded records will be destroyed in compliance with our privacy policies.

Our inability to rely on 123Signup has multiple potential impacts on our fall meeting and the months leading up to it. We have been in contact with a group that other technical committees are considering using for meeting registration purposes, but this group only handles registration and does not currently offer any association management type services. We may utilize this group for registration at the Fall 2021 meeting, but that will not address the meeting attendance and other participant management issues. Based on what we know at this time, it is unlikely that we will have access to the 123Signup system beyond the end of the summer (no specific deadline has been stated), and we may not be able to download attendance forms or membership lists in the fall before the October meeting. The RFID system we have been using requires access to the 123Signup database information, so we can’t count on it being available for the Fall 2021 meeting, either. Some of this may change and the owners of 123Signup may be convinced to continue supporting the system for a few more months; however, we are planning as if the system will not be available and notifying activity leaders that they will likely have to revert to paper rosters and manual administration of attendance records until PES identifies a replacement system. Additionally, being able to send emails out like this one would become impossible if the AM system goes away, so we encourage you to ***CHECK THE WEBSITE REGULARLY FOR UPDATES***

*123Signup is the foundation of our Association Management System and that of the other PES Technical Committees.

IN-PERSON MEETING UPDATES AND REMINDERS

1. Please make your hotel reservations at the Hyatt Regency NOW while room selection is still good by calling +1.414.276.1234 and mentioning "IEEE Transformers" to get the group rate or by clicking on this link: <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/MKERM/G-IEHQ>. Cut-off date for room

block reservations is Friday, October 1, 2021, or until rooms sell out (whichever comes first). FYI – king bed rooms typically sell-out first. If you need help with reservations, send an email to tc-guestrooms@ieee.org for assistance. NOTE that the above phone number and link to the reservations site is also posted on the Committee's Fall 2021 Meeting page (the words RESERVATION LINK on the web page are clickable and will take you directly into the Transformers Committee reservation system).

We strongly encourage everyone who will be attending the meetings to reserve a room at the host hotel, especially since we are already anticipating lower attendance numbers that will impede our ability to meet our contractual obligations to the hotel. We invest a great deal of time and effort in negotiating competitive rates at venues large enough to accommodate our growing group in anticipation of those attending our meetings benefiting from those efforts. Not only does staying at the host hotel help you by offering close proximity to be where everything is happening, the Committee does have minimum room requirements it must meet in order to continue providing the high level of overall meeting quality people have come to expect. Proving our commitment to the host hotel also gives us leverage when negotiating for future meeting space, which benefits everyone directly by way of lower per night room rates at quality establishments. Thank you for your consideration!

2. Meeting registration will open the first full week of September with early registration deadline being October 1st, and advance registration closing October 12, 2021. If able, we will send an email with a link to the registration page when it launches but please mark your calendars and check the website, as well.
3. As we ramp back up to in-person meetings, we are easing back into social activities. For the fall meeting, we will continue with the traditional Sunday night reception at the hotel but will not be offering a Wednesday night offsite social event. Additionally, we will only be offering one spouse/companion tour instead of our normal two and that will take place on Monday, October 18th. Attendance for the tour will be limited, and details will be posted on the website by next week.
4. Both SPX Transformer Solutions and Eaton will be hosting technical tours of their transformer manufacturing facilities during the meeting week. You will be able to register for these tours when you register for the meeting, with a small fee being charged to cover the cost of transportation. Attendance for both tours will be limited, and dates/times/descriptions for both tours will be posted on the website within the next couple weeks.