

January 26, 2024

Dear Committee Members and Guests:

You and your spouse/companion are cordially invited to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, to attend the spring 2024 meeting of the IEEE PES Transformers Committee on March 10-14, 2024.

You will be welcomed to the Great White North with stunning scenic views of the mountains and oceans, mild climate, and friendly people (we are Canadian after all!). Vancouver is known world-wide as a popular tourist attraction for its natural beauty and outdoor lifestyle. Visitors and residents alike experience a diverse culture through performing arts, numerous galleries, and a breadth of indigenous experiences. Enjoy the city's culinary scene of cutting-edge chefs, Michelin star restaurants and over 50 craft breweries, cideries and distilleries. We look forward to welcoming you to beautiful British Columbia!

**HOTEL INFORMATION:** Our meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver at 655 Burrard Street, Vancouver. Guests enjoy gorgeous city and mountain views, plus easy access to exciting attractions like the unique shops of Robson Street and Stanley Park. From the moment you arrive at this downtown Vancouver hotel near the Cruise Port, Rogers Arena and the Vancouver Convention Centre, you will feel right at home.

Our discounted guestroom rates start at CA\$274 per night. All rates include complimentary wireless internet in guestrooms and hotel public space as well as complimentary fitness center access for all overnight guests. Visit the Committee's website for a link to reserve a room, or, if you call the hotel, mention "IEEE Transformers" to receive the respective group rate. Cutoff date for the group rate is Friday, February 16, but we expect the hotel to sell out sooner.

**GETTING THERE:** The Hyatt Regency Vancouver is located approximately 9 miles/15 km north of Vancouver International Airport (YVR). The hotel does NOT provide shuttle services to/from YVR. Taxi fare is approximately CA\$40 one way from the airport to the hotel. UBER and Lyft are authorized providers of Ride App services at YVR (approximately ~CA\$40).

**MEETING REGISTRATION:** Register on-line for the meeting, Saturday early bird event, Sunday night reception, Monday and Tuesday lunches, Wednesday Women in Power lunch, spouse/companion tours, technical tours, and Wednesday night event: <https://cvent.me/IM9qYa?locale=en>. This link can also be found on the Committee website Next Meeting page. Register by Friday, February 16, to receive a US\$50 early registration discount (depending on your registration type). The on-line registration system will be disabled on Wednesday, March 6 to print name badges and finalize counts. The cost to register on-site is *substantially* higher than the advance registration price, and some events may not be available for on-site registration.

**WEATHER:** Vancouver enjoys mild winters, and snow is rare in the city. In fact, blossoms start covering trees as early as February. Bikers, hikers, and outdoor enthusiasts need not hibernate here, and with mountain slopes just 20 minutes from downtown, winter is the perfect time to visit for those looking to ski or snowboard. While the weather outside might be rainy, there is plenty to do indoors with the city's arts and culture seasons in full swing. Dress for the meeting is business casual.

**SATURDAY EARLY BIRD EVENT:** Embark on a full-day trip to Victoria on Vancouver Island, famous for its stunning northwest coast scenery and British charm. Sail across the Salish Sea, choose between Butchart Gardens or the Royal BC Museum (make your selection at time of registration), enjoy a group lunch, and return to Vancouver in the evening. *This is a day you will never forget!* See flyer for details and register early.

**SUNDAY EVENING WELCOME RECEPTION:** The reception will be held on the top floor of the Hyatt Regency with incredible views of downtown Vancouver, the North Shore mountains, and the Pacific Ocean. Featuring live music by a local group, plenty of tasty food and cash bars, kick off the week by catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. Please indicate whether you will attend this reception during the meeting registration process.

**SPOUSE/COMPANION TOURS:** On Monday, start the day with a guided tour of Vancouver's finest collection of contemporary indigenous northwest coast art. Next, embark on a culinary adventure at Granville Island's Public Market — Canada's second most visited attraction. Enjoy exclusive behind-the-scenes tastings with top market vendors while surrounded by the vibrant atmosphere and history of this transformed industrial-hub-turned-cultural-and-culinary haven.

Tuesday is geared towards photography lovers. Capture the essence of Vancouver's natural beauty in Stanley Park, a lush urban oasis famous for its forests, gardens, beaches, and views of the modern skyline — all just 10 minutes from downtown Vancouver. Learn professional photography techniques from a local expert and enjoy a gourmet group lunch in the Stanley Park Tea Room. This will be an unforgettable way to celebrate artistic expression and create cherished memories in Vancouver.

See flyers for details and register early as attendance is limited!

**TECHNICAL TOURS:** Tours of IFD Technologies, Harbour Air's ePlane hangar, Powertech Labs and General Fusion are planned for Monday evening, Tuesday evening, Thursday afternoon and Thursday early evening, respectively. Register online for all tours. Attendance is limited — see flyers for details.

**WEDNESDAY DINNER SOCIAL:** *This will be the highlight of your week!* Experience an enchanting group dinner at Grouse Mountain, the peak of Vancouver. After a short gondola ride, explore the cozy yet modern chalet fit with all the amenities (and a gift shop!), surrounded by a winter wonderland. With panoramic views of the city lights below and snow-capped mountains all around, savor an unforgettable meal while embracing the magic of the mountain. See flyer for details.

**ADDITIONAL MEETING INFORMATION:** Along with this invitation letter, additional meeting information can be downloaded from the Committee's website:

- Registration Fees Summary – Guide to review all fees before logging into the registration system.
- Meeting Schedule and General Sessions Agenda – If any noteworthy changes are made, an updated schedule will be posted on the Committee's website a few days prior to the meeting.

We are certain you will enjoy everything Vancouver has to offer and look forward to seeing you at the spring 2024 meeting!

Best regards,

Paul Chisholm and the IFD team  
*Spring 2024 Meeting Hosts*

