<u>**Monday, October 17th**</u>

4pm	Registration
4:30pm – 6:30pm	Welcome Reception

<u>**Tuesday, October 18th**</u>

7am	Breakfast
8am – 10am	State of the Union Presentations

10:30am – 12pm   **Don't Take a Good Time for Granted – Time Sync**

Substation synchronization tends to be an afterthought. This is changing with the advent of digital substations. Grid applications, including synchrophasor and GOOSE, demand a common time reference 24 x 7 to co-ordinate system control and operations ranging from protection to automation to measurement and analysis. Accordingly, operators need to plan for accurate, reliable time distribution across the grid. This session will 1) explain the fundamentals of the IEEE1588 technology and its use to complement GNSS/GPS system to distribute time synchronization 2) explore the network requirement for the IEEE1588 hierarchy 3) discuss a synchronization architecture blueprint.

12pm – 1pm   Attendee Lunch

1pm – 2pm   **Scaling Robotic Inspections for Asset Management**

In the coming years, asset owners across many industries will be challenged to scale robotic systems and the inspection data they produce. The goal of improving asset performance and minimizing operating costs, will only be realized by enabling integration of these systems to feed data driven decision making. A robust system that allows for broad management of robotic operations as well as transferring, organizing, processing and maintaining unstructured data will be the answer.

Speaker: **Dr. Joshua M. Riedy, Founder, CEO, Board President – Airtonomy**

2pm – 3pm   **Benefits of a "ground up" cybersecurity approach to Mission Critical Communications**

L3Harris Considering As utilities' around the country review their communications infrastructure, the increasing need for secure and robust mission critical voice and data communications is a driving force behind the decisions they make moving forward. Growing demands for IoT data, ubiquitous voice over converged platforms and increased cybersecurity demands are forcing utilities to explore options that are outside their comfort zone. Of these, cybersecurity is emerging as the single most critical feature that drives the decision making process. This is pushing utilities to examine their future plans in a

different light, one that focuses more holistically on the network as a whole rather than subsystems independently. Mission Critical voice and data suppliers must recognize this trend and be able to offer products and services that address this new normal.

Speaker:	**Rob Butts, Product Marketing Manager – L3Harris**
3pm – 6pm	Vendor Hall

Wednesday, October 19th

7am	Breakfast & Registration
7am – 9am	Region 5 Business Meeting – Open to Utility Members Only
9am – 10am	**The State of the 6 GHz Microwave Spectrum**

Two years after the FCC approved the highly controversial rule change that opened the 6 GHz microwave band to unlicensed use, licensed microwave incumbents are left to fend for themselves against interference from Wi-Fi 6E as these unlicensed devices continue to gain market acceptance. Real-world testing performed by the presenters confirmed the concerns of many, that FCC-certified Low Power Indoor (LPI) devices will harmfully interfere with licensed 6 GHz microwave networks. Are 6E device deployments tracking with the proponents' forecast of 958 million of these networks in the continental US by 2025? Are incumbents seeing the impact to their systems? This presentation will address these questions and offer mitigation strategies that are currently being implemented or considered by utility industry members. Presenters will also provide an update on outdoor Standard Power Wi-Fi 6E device and Automatic Frequency Control (AFC) standards, development, and deployment timelines.

Speaker:	**David Hattey, Strategic Leader – Lockard & White**
10am – 10:30am	Break
10:30am – 12pm	**OPGW Grounding techniques**
12pm – 1pm	Lunch
1pm – 2pm	**Overcoming Cyber Threats to enable Digital Transformation**

Utilities are undergoing a rapid period of digital transformation. By way of example, deployment of Smart Grid infrastructure and integration with "smart homes" and IoT is just one of the key projects being Undertaken today. Although such transformation results in huge benefits, it also introduces significant cybersecurity risks as sensitive data becomes more vulnerable and exposed, granting hackers and cyber terrorists greater opportunity to compromise critical information and disrupt operating

environments.

To combat these threats, utilities should consider deploying new, innovative and improved security tools that can address the gaps, risks and challenges inherent in legacy perimeter-based network security.

In this session, we will be discussing how the application of 'Zero-Trust' principles can enable utilities to move forward with these new technologies without compromising their security posture. Join us to learn how to secure critical data and eliminate risk with Micro-Segmentation, Strong Cryptography and Observability without degrading or impacting network performance or visibility.

Speaker: **Simon Hill, VP-Contacts, Legal & Sales Operations – Certes Networks**

2pm – 3pm   **UTC Leadership & Advocacy Update**

3pm – 6pm   Vendor Hall