Transatlantic Program for Young Technology Leaders: Smart Grid & Energy Storage

Germany, September 21-29, 2014

Meet the Delegation

Ashwini Bharatkumar
Graduate Student

Education
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
MS Technology & Policy; MS Electrical Engineering; PhD Engineering Systems, 2018
University of Wisconsin-Madison
B.B.A. in Operations & Information Systems, 2012

Bio
Ms. Bharatkumar is a graduate student at MIT. She is currently completing master's degrees in the Engineering Systems Division's Technology and Policy Program and Electrical Engineering, and will continue with a PhD in Engineering Systems. She is a research assistant with the MIT Energy Initiative's Utility of the Future project, an interdisciplinary study of the changes reshaping developed power sectors.

Areas of Expertise
Optimization, Systems Science & Control; Power Systems Modeling; Electricity Pricing and Regulation

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Christopher Coronel
Conservation Engineer

Employment
Utility
Conservation Engineer

Education
Binghamton University
M.S. Electrical Engineering, 2014
University of Albany
B.S. Physics, 2012

Bio
Mr. Coronel is a part of the Distributed Generation and Microgrid team at the U.S.'s largest state-owned and operated utility. This team identifies opportunities for the deployment of new technologies to increase customer resiliency while maintaining grid reliability / stability. He has aided in the implementation of a 15 MW campus style microgrid and supported the innovation of NY's power system as it adopts new regulations and smartgrid technologies.

Areas of Expertise
Power Generation, Reactive Compensation and Energy Efficiency

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Steven Dahlke
Policy Associate, Great Plains Institute

Employment
Great Plains Institute
Policy Associate

Education
Saint John's University
B.A. Environmental Studies, 2012

Bio
Steve Dahlke's work at the Great Plains Institute focuses on the development of electric transmission infrastructure required for renewable energy development. Mr. Dahlke works to build the market for advanced "Smart Grid" technologies. He is involved in various transmission planning and markets initiatives at the Midcontinent ISO. His undergraduate degree thesis project focused on bulk energy storage technologies for improved renewable energy integration.

Areas of Expertise
Electric Transmission Planning, Electricity Market Design, Renewable Energy Policy

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Aaron Diab
Computer Engineer

Employment
California Smart Grid Center
Student researcher

Education
California State University Sacramento
B.S. in Computer Engineering, 2014

Bio
Aaron Diab is a Computer Engineering graduate from California State University, Sacramento. He has worked at the California Smart Grid Center, which has three research targets: grid security, sensor and home area networks, and electrical energy transmission and distribution. At CSGC, he developed an iOS app to aid consumers in controlling their energy usage. Mr. Diab was stationed for four years in Germany with the U.S. Army and speaks German and Russian fluently.

Areas of Expertise
Embedded Software Development, Logic Design, Mobile Application Development, Information Technology

Organized By:

German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest, Inc.

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Robert Fares
Doctoral Student

Employment
University of Texas at Austin
Graduate Research Assistant (Ph.D. Student)

Education
University of Texas at Austin
M.S. in Mechanical Engineering, 2012
Washington University in St. Louis
B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, 2010

Bio
Mr. Fares is a Mechanical Engineering Ph.D. student at the University of Texas at Austin. He has an appointment in an interdisciplinary research group that seeks to address energy and environmental challenges at the intersection of engineering and public policy. His research analyzes the environmental and economic tradeoffs associated with wider use of battery energy storage on the electric grid.

Areas of Expertise
Energy Storage, Electricity Markets, Optimization, Battery Modeling

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Preston Finnie
Electrical Designer

Employment
Optima Engineering
Electrical Designer/Associate Engineer

Education
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
B.S. in Electrical Engineering, 2012

Bio
Mr. Finnie joined Optima Engineering in 2014 as an Electrical Designer with three years of industry experience. Prior to joining the firm he served as Chief Engineer and Engineering Project Manager for UNC Charlotte's 2013 Department of Energy Solar Decathlon Competition House "UrbanEden". In addition, he previously worked for Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories as an Electrical Engineering Intern where he gained experience designing power grid infrastructure.

Areas of Expertise
Renewable Generation, Mission Critical Facilities, Microgrids, Power Electronics, Power Systems Design

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Thierry Kayiranga
Doctoral Student

Employment
Center for Advanced Power Systems, Florida State University
Research Assistant

Education
Florida State University
Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering, 2018
B.S. in Electrical Engineering, 2013

Bio
Thierry Kayiranga graduated from Florida State University in May 2013 with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering. He is currently working towards his Ph.D. degree at Florida State University and holds a research assistant position at the Center for Advanced Power Systems, Tallahassee, Florida. His academic research focuses on smart grid technology, DC Nanogrid, and renewable energy.

Areas of Expertise
Power Electronics, Power Systems, and Renewable Energy

Annie Levenson-Falk
Executive Director, Minnesota Legislative Energy Commission

Employment
Legislative Energy Commission
Executive Director

Education
University of Minnesota
Humphrey Policy Fellowship, 2013
Haverford College
B.A. in Political Science, 2005

Bio
As Executive Director of the Minnesota Legislative Energy Commission, Ms. Levenson-Falk's responsibilities include helping the commission evaluate the state's energy policies and developing a framework for its transition to a clean energy economy. Previously, she was the Senior Policy Manager at the nonprofit Citizens League, where she organized a broad group of citizens and energy stakeholders to agree on ideal outcomes for the state's electrical system and recommendations to modernize the utility business model.

Areas of Expertise
Policy Analysis and Development

Organized By:

AHK German American Chambers of Commerce Deutsch-Amerikanische Handelskammern

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Henry Misas
Senior Project Engineer, Bright Power

Employment
Bright Power
Senior Project Manager

Education
Yale University
B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, 2010

Bio
Mr. Misas has designed and installed over 4 Megawatts of solar PV arrays sited in commercial building rooftops and brownfields. His current focus area is the accelerated development of microgrid and integrated clean generation solutions that include energy storage as a central component. While at Yale University, he designed and built a hybrid power (gas/electric) racecar as part of the Formula SAE program and was featured in *Popular Mechanics* for an innovative spokeless bicycle design.

Areas of Expertise
Distributed Generation, Energy Storage, Microgrids, Systems Engineering, Product Development

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Katrina Prutzman
Assistant Director, System Design and Manufacturing

Employment
Urban Green Energy
Assistant Director, System Design and Manufacturing

Education
Columbia University
M.S. in Sustainability Management, 2014
Cornell University
B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, 2007

Bio
Ms. Prutzman recently completed her MS in Sustainability Management while working in distributed energy with Urban Green Energy. She has held engineering roles in technical support, quality control, and manufacturing. She is now Assistant Director of the System Design team, providing wind, solar, electronics, and battery storage solutions to meet clients' energy security, sustainability, and cost needs. She also enjoys rock climbing, hiking, and playing piano.

Areas of Expertise
Manufacturing, Operations, Distributed Energy, Small Wind, Solar PV

Nicholas Steckler
Graduate Student

Education
Imperial College of London
M.S. in Sustainable Energy Futures, 2015
University of Washington
B.S. in Electrical Engineering, 2014

Bio
Nicholas Steckler is pursuing a Master's of Science in Sustainable Energy Futures at the Imperial College of London. While studying electrical engineering at the University of Washington, he concentrated in large-scale power systems. He also spent a summer as a research intern at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory where he studied electrical load forecasting.

Areas of Expertise
Electricity Markets, Grid Operations, Energy Storage

Eric Veium
Senior Energy Engineer

Employment
Stockman's Water & Energy
Senior Energy Engineer / Co-Founder

Education
California Polytechnic University San Luis Obispo
B.S. in Industrial Engineering, 2008

Bio
Mr. Veium has worked in the energy sector for over 8 years. He is founding partner and Senior Energy Engineer for Stockman's Water & Energy, which serves California's Central Coast Farms and Vineyards. He is President of the Association of Energy Engineers' (AEE) San Luis Obispo (SLO) chapter and is a leadership team member of SLO Clean Energy, a group committed to creating a clean energy economy.

Areas of Expertise
Water Nexus, Energy Policy, Energy Management

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FINANCED BY:

The Federal Government

ERP

European Recovery Program

ORGANIZED BY:

AHK German American Chambers of Commerce Deutsch-Amerikanische Handelskammern

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About the Transatlantic Program for Young Technology Leaders (TAP-YTL)

TAP-YTL strives to bring together future decision-makers from the U.S. and Germany to build networks and promote the transfer of knowledge through content-driven encounters and experiences.

TAP-YTL operates under the patronage of the German Ambassador to the United States. It is financially supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, which provides funding through the European Recovery Program, better known as the Marshall Plan. TAP-YTL is organized by the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest (GACC Midwest), which has considerable experience in organizing exchange programs, having conducted the Transatlantic Program for eight years for both U.S. professionals and students, the TAP-YTL series since 2010, and countless business delegation trips between the US and Germany.

The TAP-YTL delegation, an intensive 8-day excursion throughout Germany, provides 30-35 hours of comprehensive, technical know-how exchange with experts in the engineering field. TAP-YTL is a specialized professional development program that enhances its participants' knowledge of German industries while also promoting their understanding of the country's language and culture.

Trip Details

Berlin:

Intercultural Training at Goethe Institut Berlin | Presentation and Welcome at Germany Trade & Invest (GTAI)

Goslar:

Project presentations and laboratory tour at Energie-Forschungszentrum Niedersachsen

Bonn:

Presentation and Discussion at Bundesnetzagentur

Düsseldorf:

Presentation at Siemens and site visit of combined heat and power plant Lausward | Presentation and Welcome at Stadtwerke Düsseldorf

Münster:

Visit to Münster Electrochemical Energy Technology in cooperation with p3 Energy

Hamburg:

Visit to Vattenfall's hydrogen station | Visit to SmartRegion Pellworm in cooperation with Schleswig-Holstein Netz AG|Visit to the WindEnergy 2014 exhibition | Meeting with Renewable Energy Hamburg | Presentation and tour at IBA Hamburg

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Manager, Delegations & Energy Projects

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