Siemens PTI’s Successful User Group Meetings Across the Globe

During October and November 2009, and February and May 2010, Siemens PTI hosted successful users group meetings in Madrid, Spain; Hangzhou, China; Brisbane, Australia; Dubai, UAE; and San Antonio, Texas, USA.

PSS® Product Software Technology Users Group Meetings (UGMs) are offered yearly, in different regions around the world. These UGMs are a tremendous benefit for our PSS® product portfolio users (i.e., PSS®E, PSS®SINCAL, PSS®NETOMAC, PSS®MUST, PSS®ODMS and MOD®). They address mainly those companies that are current on maintenance and support, but other interested companies are also welcome to attend.

During an informal reception on the evening prior to the UGMs, users take part in hands-on demonstrations and product discussions regarding current and upcoming developments in the PSS® product suite. Users have the opportunity to meet and work with product developers. And, importantly, the UGMs are a great opportunity for Siemens PTI customers to help shape the development of their products by giving product developers insight into their current and future needs. These meetings are a great opportunity for PSS® product users to network with other users, to discover ways to make their work easier, and to increase their value to their company. UGMs are often held in conjunction with courses offered by Siemens Power Academy TD, so users can extend their stay and continue their learning.

Over 120 users in total attended the recent PSS®E UGMs in Madrid, Hangzhou, Brisbane and Dubai. After the meetings, they attended courses on subjects including “Reactive Power Planning Using PSS®E,” “PSS®E’s Graphical Model Builder,” “PSS®E’s Theory, Use and Interpretation of Small Signal Stability Analyses (NEVA),” and PSS®E - Introduction to Dynamic Simulation.”

The 2010 U.S. UGM was held this year at the Westin Riverwalk Hotel in San Antonio, Texas. Monday evening’s workshop/reception included Siemens Energy Automation and Enfuzion’s presentation of their perspective products, and was well received by users.

Over 71 users from 49 companies were in attendance at the PSS®E UGM. The presentation included a review of the current version 32 release followed by features to be found in the next release of PSS®E, version 33. Focused discussions were held on advanced modeling issues. Many good ideas were raised and suggested, many of which will find their way into future releases.

Over 27 users from 16 companies were in attendance at the PSS®MUST UGM. The PSS®MUST team and a consulting representative presented a review of PSS®MUST enhancements since the last UGM to the current version 10.1 release. Presentations of a technical application and how to make use of the new automation features were given. Users were particularly excited about the new automation enhancements.

The fourth annual MOD® Users Group Meeting this year was one of our largest ever with 32 attendees from 15 companies. The MOD® team presented the latest set of features deployed since the last meeting. The most significant was compatibility with PSS®E versions 31 and 32, along with introducing Dynamics to the web. The presentations also included features for the upcoming releases for 2010.
More than 50 users attended the PSS®SINCAL UGMs in Brisbane, Australia, and Auckland, New Zealand. Most of these users also took the training courses for “PSS® Protection” and “PSS® Harmonics.” The increasing number of user contributions during the UGMs and the very active discussions on the “wish list” show the deep interest of all participants in the success of this planning software in these markets.

Upcoming UGMs being planned are the following:

- For PSS®E UGM:
  - Germany UGM in Prague, Czech Republic October 2010
  - Australia UGM in Sydney, Australia November 2010

- For PSS®SINCAL the following UGMs are planned:
  - Australia UGM in Sydney, November 9, 2010
  - New Zealand UGM in Auckland, November 15, 2010

Comments from recent UGM attendees include:

  “This year’s content covered my areas of interest to a good level of degree.”
  “Thank you really much for the course. It was an excellent experience.”
  “Thank you very much for really great and useful UGM.”