



World Utilities  
Congress

Host



19 - 21 MAY 2026 | ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

# TECHNICAL CONFERENCE CALL FOR PAPERS



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# Welcome Note from the Technical Committee Chairman



As the world shifts toward a sustainable future, modern and climate-resilient infrastructure plays a critical role.

At the World Utilities Congress in 2026, we are focused on building smarter, more efficient utility systems that leverage technology, attract investment, and provide reliable, affordable services for everyone.



**Dr. Afif Saif Al Yafei**  
CEO  
**TAQA Transmission**  
**UAE**



# Event Overview



The World Utilities Congress is the premier global platform driving the transformation of the utilities sector. As the world shifts towards a sustainable energy future, the World Utilities Congress will be pivotal in addressing the challenges & opportunities surrounding energy transition, water security, & digitalisation.

Bringing together industry leaders, policymakers, & innovators, the event offers a unique opportunity to showcase groundbreaking technologies, forge strategic partnerships, & explore investment prospects. With a focus on integrating renewable energy sources, enhancing grid resilience, & optimising water management, the exhibition & conference are the forefront of shaping a sustainable, reliable, & inclusive future for utilities worldwide.

**25,000+**  
Exhibition Attendees

**1,000+**  
Conference Delegates

**500+**  
Conference Speakers

**250+**  
Global Exhibitors

**120+**  
Conference Sessions

**110+**  
Participating Countries

# Technical Conference

The World Utilities Congress Technical Conference 2026 is anchored by a global call for papers, offering a practical platform for industry experts, researchers, & practitioners to share technical know-how & actionable solutions. With 12 core categories spanning the entire utilities value chain from energy generation & smart infrastructure to water resilience, sustainable waste management, clean technology integration, & workforce transformation the conference is designed to promote real-world insights & cross-sector collaboration.

This edition will explore emerging developments, address operational & strategic challenges, & foster peer-led knowledge exchange through content shaped directly by professionals driving progress across the utilities sector. By bringing together technical voices from across markets, the Technical Conference contributes meaningfully to the advancement of innovation, system resilience, & sustainable growth in utilities worldwide.



## Important Deadlines



Call for Papers  
Opens

14 August 2025



Call for Papers  
Closes

14 November 2025



Author  
Notifications

12 December 2025



World Utilities  
Congress 2026 Opens

19 May 2026

# At a Glance

## 📍 THEATRE 1

### Power-Gen

Power Generation | Transmission | Storage | Hydrogen Nuclear | Low-Carbon Fuels | Markets

#### Categories

- 1 Clean Power Generation for a Net Zero Future
- 2 Smarter Transmission & Grid Innovation
- 3 Flexible Energy Systems with Hydrogen & Storage
- 4 Energy Markets & Investment Innovation **NEW**

## 📍 THEATRE 2

### Grid AI

Digitalisation | AI | Smart Grids | Mobility Cybersecurity | Data

#### Categories

- 1 AI-Powered Utilities & Predictive Technologies **NEW**
- 2 Smart Grids & Grid Edge Innovation
- 3 Urban Electrification & Clean Mobility
- 4 Cybersecurity & Digital Trust **NEW**

## 📍 THEATRE 3

### Water & Climate

Water | Waste | ESG | Circularity | Workforce

#### Categories

- 1 Future-Ready Water Systems & Infrastructure
- 2 Circular Waste & Resource Recovery **NEW**
- 3 ESG & Sustainable Finance Leadership
- 4 Talent Powering Operational Excellence

## Why Participate?

### Drive the Next Wave of Utilities Innovation

Be at the forefront of shaping the technologies & standards that will revolutionise power & water utilities over the next decade.

### Solve Critical Industry Challenges

Share actionable solutions addressing operational bottlenecks, infrastructure inefficiencies, & integration challenges facing utilities today.

### Showcase Your Expertise

Present your research, pilot projects, & system upgrades to a technical audience that truly values your contributions.

### Connect with Key Decision-Makers

Engage with project leaders, technical experts, & procurement professionals who influence utility investments & implementations.

### Stay Ahead of Emerging Trends

Gain early access to emerging technologies & scalable solutions utilities are actively piloting & adopting.

### Collaborate Across Sectors for Integrated Solutions

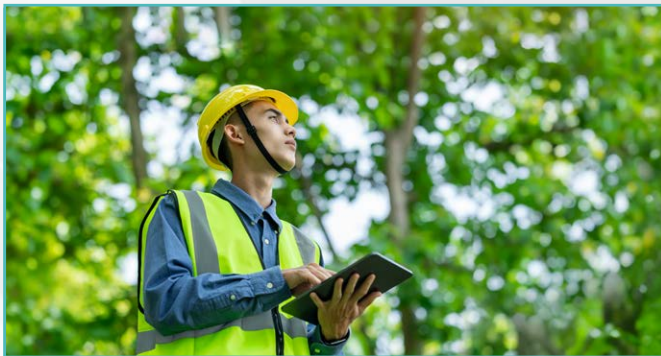
Work with peers across hydrogen, storage, AI, water, & mobility to develop integrated strategies for next-gen infrastructure.

SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACTS TODAY



[www.worldutilitiescongress.com/submit](https://www.worldutilitiescongress.com/submit)

# Power-Gen



## Clean Power Generation for a Net Zero Future

Unlocking the full potential of renewable & low-carbon generation technologies to sustainably power industries & communities, driving the energy transition with innovation & scale.

- Utility-scale solar & hybrids
- Wind (onshore & offshore)
- Geothermal, hydro & marine
- Waste-to-energy & biomass
- Nuclear & SMRs
- Distributed generation & microgrids
- Off-grid & rural power
- Industrial clean energy & critical minerals
- Decarbonising power & flexible gas
- District cooling & heating



## Smarter Transmission & Grid Innovation

Revolutionise how energy moves enabling smarter, stronger, & more adaptable grids that seamlessly integrate diverse power sources & connect markets across borders.

- HVAC & HVDC systems
- Cross-border links & power pools
- Substation automation & digital upgrades
- Voltage/reactive power control
- Advanced conductors & line ratings
- Grid congestion & flexibility
- DER integration
- Forecasting & outage prediction
- Climate-resilient grid planning
- District energy integration



## Flexible Energy Systems with Hydrogen & Storage

Fueling a dependable & green energy future by blending hydrogen, storage, & hybrid generation systems that keep the lights on while cutting emissions in hard-to-electrify sectors.

- Green hydrogen
- Blue hydrogen, CCUS & gas transition
- Hydrogen blending & ammonia
- Battery tech (Li-ion, LFP, etc.)
- Long-duration energy storage (LDES)
- Thermal & mechanical storage
- V2G & EV battery reuse
- Industrial electrification
- Peak shaving & resilience
- Hybrid fuel & storage systems



## Energy Markets & Investment Innovation

Open doors to clean energy investments & partnerships through forward-thinking market designs, innovative financing tools, & public-private collaborations that accelerate change.

- Market reforms & liberalisation
- Carbon pricing & trading
- Capacity & flexibility markets
- Renewable PPAs & auctions
- Investment & risk frameworks
- Digital trading & real-time pricing
- Cross-border power trade
- Green bonds & finance
- PPP & project finance
- Regulatory enablers

# Grid AI



## AI-Powered Utilities & Predictive Technologies

Transform utility operations with innovative AI & data-driven insights that boost efficiency, anticipate issues, & deliver smarter, greener energy services.

- Predictive maintenance & monitoring
- AI forecasting & optimisation
- Digital twins & simulation
- Analytics & automation
- Customer insights & smart billing
- Control room automation
- Energy management platforms
- ML-based fault detection
- AI-driven sustainability tracking
- Virtual assistants & chatbots



## Smart Grids & Grid Edge Innovation

Create dynamic, customer-focused power systems powered by smart devices, decentralised resources, & flexible demand that redefine the energy landscape.

- Smart meters & IoT
- Demand response & flexibility
- Virtual Power Plants & aggregators
- Rooftop solar, batteries & EVs
- Blockchain P2P trading
- Intelligent inverter tech
- Consumer engagement & prosumers
- Microgrids & local energy communities
- DERMS platforms
- DER regulations



## Urban Electrification & Clean Mobility

Drive urban sustainability forward by electrifying transport, optimising energy use, & creating smart mobility ecosystems for healthier, cleaner cities.

- EV charging & planning
- Public transit & fleet electrification
- Smart mobility hubs & MaaS
- Load management & smart charging
- Battery swapping & V2G
- Urban energy planning
- Energy-as-a-service for transport
- Decarbonising last-mile logistics
- Renewables integration in cities
- Clean mobility policy & incentives



## Cybersecurity & Digital Trust

Protect the digital backbone of utilities with robust cybersecurity, ensuring secure, reliable energy delivery in an interconnected world.

- OT & IT cybersecurity
- Data privacy & compliance
- Incident detection & response
- Cloud & edge security
- AI ethics & transparency
- Blockchain security
- Infrastructure resilience
- Cyber workforce training
- Interoperability security
- Digital risk management

# Water & Climate



## Future-Ready Water Systems & Infrastructure

Build resilient, energy-smart water networks that safeguard supply, promote reuse, & support agriculture & industry with sustainable solutions.

- Renewable desalination
- Wastewater treatment & reuse
- Smart metering & leak detection
- Energy efficiency in water utilities
- Agricultural water & irrigation
- Industrial water reuse & zero-liquid discharge
- Water-energy nexus planning
- Pipelines, storage & drainage
- Rural & off-grid water solutions
- Water quality monitoring & compliance



## Circular Waste & Resource Recovery

Turn waste into wealth by embracing circular economy principles that reduce landfill reliance & unlock new resources from discarded materials.

- Municipal solid waste management
- Waste-to-energy & thermal treatment
- Sludge & biosolids management
- Industrial & hazardous waste reuse
- Organic waste composting & biogas
- Materials recovery & recycling
- E-waste management
- Construction & demolition recycling
- Circular economy models
- Landfill diversion & zero-waste strategies

# Water & Climate

## TECHNICAL CONFERENCE



### ESG & Sustainable Finance Leadership

Lead the way in sustainable utility practices by embedding ESG principles, securing green finance, & fostering equitable growth for communities & investors alike.

- ESG reporting & benchmarking
- Climate risk & resilience
- Green bonds & sustainable finance
- Governance & board accountability
- Social impact & stakeholder engagement
- Diversity, equity & inclusion
- Carbon neutrality roadmaps
- Nature-based solutions & biodiversity
- Investor transparency
- Just transition & community benefits



### Talent Powering Operational Excellence

Empower utility teams with the skills, culture, & leadership needed to drive innovation, operational excellence, & an inclusive, future-ready workforce.

- Reskilling & upskilling
- Leadership & talent development
- HSE management
- Just transition workforce planning
- Diversity & inclusion in hiring
- Vocational training partnerships
- Operational excellence frameworks
- Workforce well-being & engagement
- Talent retention & attraction
- Project management excellence

# Abstract Submission Guidelines

All submitted abstracts will be reviewed by the **World Utilities Congress 2026 Technical Committee**. Early submission is encouraged to allow sufficient time for review. The **final submission deadline is 14 November 2025**. Abstracts submitted after this date or those that are incomplete will not be considered.

**IMPORTANT:** All abstracts must be submitted through the official online submission portal.  
[www.worldutilitiescongress.com/submit](http://www.worldutilitiescongress.com/submit)

## Abstract Submissions:

- Abstracts must be written in English & limited to 500 words.
- You may upload supporting material such as illustrations, graphs, or tables as attachments.
- Do not submit the same abstract more than once. If your abstract is relevant to multiple categories, please choose the most appropriate category.
- Multiple submissions are allowed, either within the same category or across different ones; however, if selected, one speaker can only present once.
- Please ensure management approval is obtained prior to submission. If there are any clearance issues, they must be clearly stated at the time of submission.
- If the abstract has been previously presented, kindly provide the event name, date, & location.

SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACTS TODAY  [www.worldutilitiescongress.com/submit](http://www.worldutilitiescongress.com/submit)



# Abstract Scoring Criteria

Your abstracts will be evaluated by the Technical Committee members according to the following grading criteria:

- **Impact:** what industry or organisational impact does your work have? Please include relevant results &/or case studies
- **Originality:** your abstract should demonstrate innovation & originality, & contain significant new knowledge, technical results or experience
- **Interest & Relevance:** how relevant is your submission to the current state of the utilities industry? How interesting is the subject matter to the audience & the industry overall? Will it grab their attention?

## Abstract Content:

A proper review of your abstract requires that it contains adequate information for the Technical Committee to make a judgment. Abstracts should include the following:



### Description:

summarise the scope & nature of the work on which the abstract is based, e.g. project description, why it was undertaken, data description, the technology used, etc.



### Results & Conclusions:

summarise the results & major conclusions to be presented, explain how these differ from previous work on the same subject



### Applications:

describe the possible application of the information provided in the abstract



### Technical Contributions:

describe the significance of the subject matter in the abstract by listing technical contributions or additions to the technical knowledge relevant to the utilities industry.



# Technical Conference

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# Technical Conference

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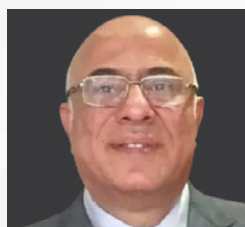
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Congress



**19 - 21 MAY 2026**

**ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

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