

### **Rick Hartlein Appointed Director of NEETRAC**



Richard (Rick) Hartlein was appointed Director of the National Electric Energy Testing Research and Applications Center (NEETRAC) effective January 1, 2007. He had been Acting Director since the retirement of the previous Director, Dr. Hans B. Püttgen. Rick will maintain his position of Program Manager, Underground Systems.

Rick Hartlein, a native of Atlanta, GA received his bachelor and master of mechanical engineering from Georgia Tech in 1976 and 1982, respectively. He worked at the Georgia Power Research Center for the first 25 years of his career, evaluating transmission and distribution materials, developing material specifications and industry standards, managing research and testing programs, and providing engineering services. Rick came to Georgia Tech in 1996 where he helped to establish NEETRAC. As the Underground Systems Program Manager, Rick manages research and testing projects related to electric utility underground cable systems. He has been, and is still, very active in industry technical organizations related to this field. For example, he has served as Secretary, Vice Chair, and Chair of the IEEE Insulated Conductors Committee (ICC) and the Association of Edison Illuminating Companies (AEIC).

### **Dr. Greg Stone Elected to IEC Governing Body**



Dr. Greg Stone, VP Business Development at Iris Power L.P., has been elected effective January 1, 2007, to a 3-year term as one of the 15 members of the IEC Council Board. The Council Board serves as the board of directors for the IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission), which is the world's primary standards development body for electrical and electronic products and systems. Technical experts from 51 countries around the world develop IEC standards.

Dr. Stone has been involved with motor and generator standards creation with the IEC since 1980, and he has been active in creating rotating machine standards for the IEEE. In 1990 Dr. Stone was one of the founders of Iris Power, a manufacturer of on-line test equipment for large motors and generators. Iris Power is based in Toronto, ON, Canada, has 80 employees in three countries, and has its monitoring equipment installed in industrial plants and electric power utility generating stations in over 30 countries.

### **Prof. Issouf Fofana Given a Canada Research Chair in Insulating Liquids and Mixed Dielectrics**

University of Quebec at Chicoutimi is pleased to announce that Professor Dr. Issouf Fofana is Canada Research Chair in Insulating Liquids and Mixed Dielectrics for Electrotechnology. This Canada Research Chair, called ISOLIME, involves evaluating performance of insulating liquids and mixed dielectrics required for electrical energy transportation and distribution systems. With increasing age of electric power infrastructure worldwide, there are potential risks of extremely high monetary losses due to unexpected failures and outages. The blackouts in the United States (2003) and Europe (2003 and 2006) underscored the importance of reliable electrical energy systems. The team of Professor Fofana plans to help make the existing systems more reliable by studying the gassing tendency of insulating liquids under the impact of electrical, thermal, and chemical stress. The goal is to reduce energy losses, hinder the oxidation decay of oil-paper insulation, and extend the life expectancy of these expensive machines considered capital investments in every country infrastructure. He is going to conduct a number of studies to complete the proposed program. For instance, he will use high tech optical, electrical as well as physical and chemical diagnostic tools to establish the mechanisms of incipient electrical failures formation. Among them are partial discharges and electrical tree structures that cause the premature failure of electrical equipment. Combining a variety of techniques, Professor Fofana intends to enhance the cost effectiveness of predictive maintenance procedures and foster the development of new products, including biodegradable liquids with proven dielectric properties. By knowing more about the aging and deterioration processes of

electrical equipment, system operators will be in a better position to make appropriate decisions to avoid blackouts. More information on Professor Fofana can be obtained at: <http://dsa-cigele.uqac.ca/ifofana/>.

## **SuperPower, Inc. Makes World's Single Largest Delivery of 2G HTS Wire**

SuperPower, Inc., has just made the world's single largest delivery of 2G HTS wire yet—9.7 km, or nearly 6 miles—to Sumitomo Electric in Japan, which will fabricate the wire into a 30 meter HTS cable to replace a segment of the 1G HTS cable currently installed at the Albany Cable Project.

SuperPower, Inc., is the only company in the world that can manufacture 2G HTS wire in lengths of more than 400 meters and with performance in the range of 200 A/cm. The company is now offering 2G HTS wire in application-specific configurations for power equipment suppliers around the world. This robust, high-performance wire can carry up to 200 times the current of conventional copper wire and operates without resistance, cutting transmission loss by 7-10%. Other performance enhancements include improved function in magnetic field and better mechanical properties versus 1G HTS wire and lower ac losses.

## **ASTM International Launches Year of the Student Initiative**

ASTM International, one of the largest voluntary standards development organizations in the world, today announced that it is marking 2007 as the Year of the Student. As part of this initiative, ASTM will embark on a series of academic efforts aimed at building greater awareness and involvement in standardization among students and educators worldwide.

The multifaceted Year of the Student Initiative campaign expands on ASTM's ongoing educational outreach programs, including its popular student membership category launched in 2003. Highlighting the Year of the Student Initiative will be:

- New product offerings aimed at helping professors incorporate ASTM standards in their course curricula.
- Rollout of the newly designed ASTM Campus, a focused area of the ASTM web site for students and professors.
- College and university campus visits and training sessions by ASTM members and staff.
- Participation in the 2007 Washington Internships for Students of Engineering (WISE) Programs.
- Continued growth and promotion of student membership in ASTM International.

## **Norplex-Micarta Expands Asian Customer Support with New China Office**

Norplex-Micarta, the leading manufacturer of high-performance thermoset composites, announces the expansion of their Asian customer support network with a new office in China. Situated in the Eastern Section of Songjiang Industrial Park in Shanghai, the office will provide more than 7,000 square-meters of new space. In addition to the existing Shenzhen office, this new location will help Norplex-Micarta provide quality support to local customers in the rapidly growing Asia market.

Norplex-Micarta is the leading global manufacturer of high-performance thermoset composites. Norplex-Micarta's vast product line serves power generation, military/aerospace, oil and gas, medical devices, electrical devices, electronics assembly, construction, heavy industry, and transportation markets throughout Europe, Asia/Pacific, and the Americas. Worldwide headquarters are located in Postville, Iowa.

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