Call for Thought Leaders Submission Guide

Submission Module Opens: September 2019
Deadline for Thought Leader Applications: November 29, 2019

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On behalf of the Solar Energy Industries Association and the Smart Electric Power Alliance, we are pleased to announce that we are currently accepting submissions for thought leaders for next year's Solar Power International (SPI), Energy Storage International (ESI), and North America Smart Energy Week (NASEW), taking place September 14-17, 2020 in Anaheim, CA, USA. SPI, ESI, and NASEW are North America's premier education and business-to-business event for professionals in solar, energy storage, and related fields. No other event provides the opportunities for collaboration, access to experts, and innovative information needed for success.

Experienced thought leaders are essential to the delivery of compelling content at SPI, ESI, and NASEW and only the very best submissions will be considered for presentation at this year's meeting, so please review this guide thoroughly and carefully to improve your chance for selection.

Notification will be sent via email, whether a submission was incorporated into the agenda by April of 2020. Please do not contact organizers before this date.

Step-by-Step Submission Guide

STEP 1: Log in or Create an Account
If you have submitted a presentation for SPI, ESI, and NASEW in the past four years, please use your previous credentials. If you've forgotten, the system will send you a reminder via the forgot your password tool. If you are new, please create an account and then follow the instructions to set up a login and change your password.

Step 2: Start a New Submission

There are two different submission categories, individual submission and group submissions. The following information outlines what is required in each submission type.

1. **Individual Presentation**
   a. Submission Title (150 character maximum)
   b. Submission Category (pick one)
      - Solar
      - Energy Storage
      - Wind Energy
      - Microgrids
      - Hydrogen + Fuel Cells
      - Electric Vehicles and Infrastructure
      - Biomass/Biofuels
      - Geothermal
      - Water Nexus/Hydropower

2. **Group Presentation** (60 minute) - A panel should consist of one (1) moderator and three (3) to four (4) speakers. Panels are encouraged to facilitate a significant amount of interaction with the audience and the speakers. An audience response system will be provided.
    a. Submission Title (150 character maximum)
    b. Submission Category (pick one)
        ▪ Biomass/Biofuels
        ▪ Electric Vehicles and Infrastructure
        ▪ Energy Storage
        ▪ Geothermal
        ▪ Hydrogen + Fuel Cells
        ▪ Microgrids
        ▪ Solar
        ▪ Water Nexus/Hydropower
        ▪ Wind Energy
    c. Attest the speakers you are recommending have been notified.

Step 3: Presenter(s) Profile

For an individual presentation, please enter the presenter's contact information and professional designation. If you are submitting a group presentation, please be sure to enter the contact information and professional designation for all co-presenters. It is imperative that the email address you enter is correct, as all correspondence regarding submissions will be done via email through the online submission module.

The following items and questions will appear:

▪ Are you a current SEIA or SEPA member?
▪ Upload Bio (required for individual speaker submissions; optional for group submissions)
▪ Have you presented at a professional meeting/event in the past? If yes, where?

Step 4: Submission Details

You will need to answer the following questions to best categorize the content of your submission for review and selection.

▪ **Education Category (Select One):**
    1. Regulatory Innovation and Policy Drivers
    2. Finance and Asset management
    3. Grid Integration & Generation
    4. Managing Growth

▪ **Keywords (Pick All That Apply):**
    1. Behind the Meter Penetration
    2. Community Solar
    3. Consumer Engagement (Protection & Acquisition)
    4. Demand Response
    5. Electric Vehicles
    6. Electrification
    7. Emerging Technologies
    8. Energy Management Solutions/Software
    9. Fire and Safety
    10. Grid Strategy
    11. In Front of the Meter Penetration
    12. Innovations in Renewable Energy
    13. Integration
    14. International
    15. Interconnection

16. IoT Technologies
17. Market and Technology Outlook/Forecast
18. Microgrids
19. New Business Opportunities and Models
20. Planning Management
21. Operations & Maintenance
22. Rate Design
23. Policy & Regulation Codes/Standards: State or Federal
24. Resiliency
25. Smart Technologies
26. Storage and Value of Distributed Generation
27. Other

- **Target Audience/Industry Segments (Pick All That Apply):**
    1. Architect
    2. Business Development
    3. Communications/Public Relations
    4. Engineer
    5. Executive
    6. Finance/Accounting
    7. Government Relations
    8. Health/Safety
    9. Human Resources
    10. Information Technology
    11. Installer
    12. Legal Counsel
    13. Marketing
    14. Operations/Maintenance
    15. Policy Adviser/Analyst
    16. Program/Project Development
    17. Research & Development
    18. Sales
    19. Supply Chain/Logistics
    20. Sustainability/Corporate Social Responsibility
    21. Other
- **Submission Description (250 Words Maximum)**
- **Link to Other Works (Optional)**

Review Process

All educational content is developed through a peer review process to guarantee the delivery of timely, relevant and compelling content for professionals in the renewable energy industries. Following the review, education content for the event is slotted and organized by the Education Committee and staff of SEIA and SEPA.

Note: While we are pleased when a speaker chose to be a sponsor or exhibitor, a speaking slot is never guaranteed for exhibitors or sponsors. All accepted presentations are based on overall merit and/or slot availability.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the submitters responsibilities?

- **It is imperative that the email address you enter is correct**, as all correspondence regarding submissions will be done via email through the online submission module.

How long is each speaking slot?

At SPI, ESI, and NASEW, we have many different speaking formats, including:
- Full Conference Sessions:
  - **Interactive Panel Discussions:** Sessions are 60 or 90 minutes in length. A panel should consist of one (1) moderator and three (3) to four (4) speakers. Panels are encouraged to facilitate a significant amount of interaction with the audience and the speakers. An audience response system will be provided.
  - **QuickTalks:** 15 minutes plus 10 minutes for questions by a single speaker on a narrow topic (like TEDTalks).
- Show Floor Education: 30 to 60-minute sessions cutting-edge topic presentations.

Does speaking at SPI or ESI have any cost for my company?

- There is no cost for your company. Accepted speakers receive a significantly discounted Full Conference pass.

What advice do you have for creating a successful application?

- **Submit it on time**. The education programming timeline starts 10 months before the show, so plan ahead. Requests to speak after the deadline are rarely included in the program.
- **Submit a complete application.**

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- **Submit it on time**. The education programming timeline starts 10 months before the show, so plan ahead. Requests to speak after the deadline are rarely included in the program.
- **More is not better**. We want to give as many companies the opportunity to speak as possible, so we have a one speaker per company policy. We recommend two or three submissions and no more than five per company.
- **Quality trumps.** We're looking for the best: the most current issues, the most innovative ideas, the leaders of your company, etc. Put your best foot forward and please do not send us the same abstract you've submitted previously.
- **Focus on the audience.** The Education Committee develops sessions that are highly interactive and participatory. Sessions with four, fifteen-minute lectures and a few questions at the end are no longer a part of the conference. Your abstract should reflect this shift towards adult education best practices.
- **Keep it simple.** In order to have a great, interactive session, you have to focus on a few key ideas you want to convey. Do not try to solve all grid integration issues in your 60-minute session.

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Timeline

Note that some of the items in the below timeline (starting with the Speaker Webinar) only apply to the topic and panel submission types. If selected, poster representatives will receive a separate timeline and variety of poster development resources. If you have any questions, please send an email to education@sets.solar.

Presentation Submission Deadline	November 29, 2019
Round One: Education Committee members review and rate all presentations online	December 2019
Round Two: Education Committee reviews all presentations and develops the final program	January 2020
Primary presentation authors receive notification. *Please do not contact event organizers before this time as it will delay the process*	March 2020
Speaker webinar for accepted presentations	June 2020
Conference call #1 for accepted presentations	July 2020
Conference call #2 for accepted presentations	August 2020
Conference call #3 for accepted presentations	August 2020
Final presentations due	Early-September 2020
Solar Power International (Anaheim, California, USA)	September 14 – 17, 2020