

## COMBINED CYCLE Journal

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## Spring 2010 user-group season in full swing

Most user-group meetings in the gas-turbine-based generation sector of the electric power industry are held in the spring and in warm locations. The W501F and G groups, which have shared a common venue for the last several years, traditionally christen the new year. Their 2010 conferences and joint vendor fair hosted more than 160 users and 70 companies in Orlando, February 21-25, proof positive that the economy is on the rebound and gas turbines are running at higher capacity factors.

The Western Turbine annual conference and exhibition, which focuses on GE Energy aero engines (LM2500, LM5000, LM6000, and LMS100), is probably the largest gas-turbine (GT) user meeting in the world. It concluded March 17, attracting perhaps more than 900 participants for the first time. The exhibition featured products and services from more than 150 companies.

This was the 20th annual meeting of the Western Turbine Users Inc, a group that has never wavered from the goals established by the founding members to help owners operate and maintain their engines for maximum reliability, availability, and efficiency—and with the lowest emissions possible.

The WTUI section in this issue illustrates well the value proposition offered by user-group membership and attendance. If you are having difficulty getting approval to attend the user-group conference supporting your GT model, consider sending a copy of the Western Turbine report to the executive who is skeptical about the meeting's ROI.

**HRSG User's Group.** Only a week after this issue was dropped in the mail, the HRSG User's Group meeting was held in Jacksonville to help O&M personnel at combined-cycle and cogeneration plants solve steam-cycle problems. About 350 attendees were expected from among the engineering organization's 1500-plus members in more than 50 countries.

**Remaining spring meetings.** Don't pass up an opportunity to attend one or more of the following meetings remaining on the spring agenda. It's a sure bet you'll bring back to your plant ideas that when implemented will pay at least a 10-fold return on travel expenses.

- April 25-29, CTOTF—Combustion Turbine Operations Task Force, Spring Turbine Forum and Trade Show celebrating 35 years of service to the gas-turbine user community, Amelia Island, Fla, Amelia Island Plantation. Contact: Wickey Elmo, group and conference coordinator, info@ctotf.com.
- May 10-14, 7F Users Group, 2010 Conference and Vendor Fair, Renaissance Waverly Atlanta. Visit <http://ge7fa.users-groups.com> for details on registration.
- June 8-10, 501D5/D5A Users, Annual Conference and Expo, Dana Point, Calif, Laguna Cliffs Marriott Resort & Spa. Details at [www.501D5-D5Ausers.org](http://www.501D5-D5Ausers.org). Contact: Gabe Fleck, chairman, gfleck@aeci.org.
- June 14-17, Frame 6 Users Group, 2010 Conference & Vendor Fair, San Antonio, The Westin Riverwalk. Details at [www.Frame6UsersGroup.org](http://www.Frame6UsersGroup.org). Contact: Wickey Elmo, conference coordinator, wickeyelmo@carolina.rr.com.

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