

Utility Forum – Is Your Utility Ready for the Future?

The Utility Forum will be held on June 11, 2017 as part of the IWA ICA 2017 conference (Instrumentation, Control and Automation) in Quebec.

Introduction

Creating and running a 'Smart Water Utility' is about understanding and leading the chain of the three activities of:

Measuring – to be sure reality is understood,

Analysing – to make sure relevant processes are well understood

Deciding – to make sure to transform the understanding to actual change.

This M-A-D principle is a characteristic process of Smart Water Utilities and is applicable on all levels from the traditional layer of automation; through the operational, tactical, and strategical layers; and throughout the full water cycle: water source – water extraction – water treatment – water distribution – water usage – used water collection – water resource recovery – outlet – recipient.

In today's world of increasing pressure to move towards sustainable and resilient water infrastructure, building a competence layer of 'smart' is a pressing issue for water utilities as well as being a large undertaking. It is not merely a technical challenge, but is also about people -- attitudes, education, incentives, training, organisation, responsibility, and combining 'traditional' water competencies with new ones.

The **ICA Utility Forum** serves as a day to come together for those who are at the beginning of this adventure, in the middle of a transition, as well as for those who are just wondering how to approach this complex challenge. We hope the day can help build and strengthen a 'fellowship' of people who are working on instrumentation, control and automation issues and exploring ways to move their utilities into this sustainable new world.

The day will consist of a series of inspirational talks followed by interactive discussion sessions, where everybody will be able to contribute with their voice, ideas and challenges. We look forward to discussing our Utility's needs and challenges with a focus on identifying gaps, and setting direction toward the future.

The results of the Utility Forum debates, together with the outcomes from other forums, will be presented to the whole conference attendance, providing a state-of-the-art overview from the different professional groups.

Please join us at the ICA-Utility Forum at linkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13530236>

Programme of the Utility Forum

Session 1: Why will future water utilities have to be 'smart'?

What does it mean to be a "smart utility"? What are the business drivers? How may smart utilities look in 10 years, 20 years, distant future? What will happen to existing infrastructure versus greenfield infrastructure? Where would we go if we were unencumbered by current practices?

Session 2: Measurements, Analyses and Decisions - An Overview of the Applications

To provide an overview, let us map the world of smart by populating the matrix of key applications through the water cycle and at levels from automatic to strategic. At what levels of development are they on a scale from infancy to maturity?

Within our individual facilities, how are measurements, analyses and decisions made? What are the future opportunities?

Session 3: How do we build smart competence and culture?

What are steps we can take to build a smart culture? What do we have to do as Utilities to evaluate the opportunities, implement Smart Water and realize the value?

What kind of support will be helpful from the scientific community, manufacturers, consultants and authorities and how do we wish them to extend their services, competences and support moving forward?

Closing session: Preparing a Manifest

Building upon our earlier discussions, we will prepare a manifest, or framework, to communicate what we believe to be the current needs and challenges for ICA and a vision for the "smart utility of the future".

Schedule

1st session (8:45 – 10:00)

8:45- 9:00 Welcome to Utility forum (Pernille Ingildsen)

9:00-9:30 Why will future water utilities have to be 'smart'? (Pernille Ingildsen)

9:30-10:00 Group work and comments

10:00-10:30 Coffee break

2nd session (10:30-12:00)

10:30-11:00 Measurements, Analyses and Decisions - An Overview of the Applications (Elkin Hernandez)

11:00 – 11:30 Group work

11:30 - 12:00: Group presentation

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch

3rd session (13:00-14:30)

13:00-13:30 How do we build smart competence and culture? (Adrienne Menniti)

13:30 – 14:00 Group work

14:00 - 14:30: Group presentation

14:30 – 15:00 Coffee break

Closing session: (15:00-16:00)

15:00-15:30 Panel discussion 'The smart utility of the future' (key points from each session)

15:30–16:00 Discussion: sharpening of the key points