

PROGRAM AGENDA

START	END	ROOM 1	ROOM 2
WEDNESDAY - NOVEMBER 19, 2025			
8:15 AM	10:00 AM	Keynotes	
10:00 AM	10:30 AM	Coffee Break	
10:30 AM	11:15 AM	Localized Resilience Metrics and Decision Support Tools	
11:15 AM	11:30 AM	Break	
11:30 AM	12:15 PM	Operationalizing Resilience in Defense Communities Through Scenario Planning and Stakeholder Engagement	
12:15 PM	1:30 PM	Lunch (No Host)	
1:30 PM	2:15 PM	CIE's Impact to Automation Design	
2:15 PM	2:30 PM	Break	
2:30 PM	3:15 PM	Cyber Resilience Office for Control Systems (CROCS) – advancing OT Cyber, not the comfy rubber shoes!!!	
3:15 PM	3:30 PM	Expo	
3:30 PM	4:15 PM	Ensuring Safety and Resilience in Grid-Scale Energy Storage Systems	Critical Minerals Security: Strengthening Digital Infrastructure Resilience through Sustainable Supply Chains Part 2
4:15 PM	6:00 PM	Expo	
THURSDAY - NOVEMBER 20, 2025			
8:15 AM	10:00 AM	Keynotes	
10:00 AM	10:30 AM	Coffee Break	
10:30 AM	11:15 AM	Cyber Risk Standards Mashup: NERC-CIP and Cyber Security Model Certification (CMMC)	Grid Resilience and Extreme Weather: Is the Threat Real or Overstated? Are we truly prepared?
11:15 AM	11:30 AM	Break	
11:30 AM	12:15 PM	IEEE Papers 1	Collaborative Panel: Managing Infrastructure Interdependencies and Regional Resilience with a Watershed-focused Approach
12:15 PM	1:30 PM	Lunch (No Host)	
1:30 PM	2:15 PM	Operationalizing Resilient AI/ML Models: Out of the Lab and Into Production	Integrated Energy Infrastructure Planning under Extreme Weather Uncertainties
2:15 PM	2:30 PM	Break	

2:30 PM	3:15 PM	Securing the Grid: Holistic Cybersecurity Strategies for Solar and other Grid Connected Resources	
3:15 PM	3:30 PM	Break	
3:30 PM	4:15 PM	Buzzword Soup: Using Zero-Trust to Secure Critical Infrastructure with and from AI-driven Technologies	IEEE Papers 2
4:15 PM	6:00 PM	Expo, Posters, and Reception	

2025 DETAILED PROGRAM

[2025 Program Agenda](#)

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2025



12:00 PM	Registration (12:00pm–6:00pm)	Woodrow Wilson Lobby
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WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2025



8:30 AM	Defense TechConnect, Energy and Resilience, SBIR/STTR, and Small Business Keynotes	Woodrow Wilson A
	After the Presentation of Colors and National Anthem, join us for keynotes featuring defense, investment, energy, and small business leadership.	
	Presentation of Colors and National Anthem US Air Force Band and US Space Force Color Guard	
	Welcome and Opening Remarks Jennifer Rocha , Strategic Partnerships, TechConnect Division, ATI Matt Willis , Director, Army FUZE, U.S. Army Timothy A. Walton , Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute Kelly Loeffler , Administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration	

10:00 AM	Coffee Break	Woodrow Wilson Lobby
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10:30 AM	Defense TechConnect: Energy Resilience and Infrastructure: Localized Resilience Metrics and Decision Support Tools	Baltimore 2
	As communities face increasingly complex and compounding risks—from hazards to infrastructure vulnerabilities—local stakeholders need practical tools and data-driven frameworks to guide resilience planning and implementation. This session will explore how actionable, community-scale data can be leveraged to assess and strengthen resilience across physical, social, and institutional dimensions. Panelists will introduce a range of tools and indicators used to quantify resilience at the local level, including metrics derived from census data and hazard exposure datasets. Through a series of lightning talks, participants will learn about innovative dashboards, web applications, and cross-sector data integration strategies that support decision-making in areas such as housing, utilities, and public health. The session will also feature an interactive group exercise where attendees will identify data gaps and resilience priorities in fictional or real-world communities. The discussion will culminate in a collaborative dialogue to surface needs for future tool development, opportunities for scaling, and strategies for more inclusive and effective resilience planning Bobby Jeffers, Laboratory Program Manager I-Cyber Security & Resilience, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) Sara Peterson, Researcher, Resilient Infrastructure and Security Center, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)	

11:30 AM

Defense TechConnect: Energy Resilience and Infrastructure: Operationalizing Resilience in Defense Communities Through Scenario Planning and Stakeholder Engagement

Baltimore 2 [↑](#)

Resilience planning is most effective when it moves beyond theory and into practice—grounded in real-world data, inclusive processes, and community values. This session focuses on how scenario-based planning and participatory engagement can help operationalize resilience strategies focused on defense communities. Through a series of panel presentations, participants will explore tools that integrate risk, hazard projections, and infrastructure vulnerability to support decision-making. Case studies from local governments and defense communities will illustrate how community engagement has shaped resilience investments, from backup power to flood protection and housing retrofits. Presenters will also share prioritization frameworks that help translate complex data into clear, community-informed actions. An interactive group discussion will invite attendees to reflect on how scenario planning can better reflect lived experiences and local priorities—not just infrastructure risks. The session will conclude with a synthesis of key takeaways and an invitation to collaborate on future tool development and community-centered resilience planning.

[Bobby Jeffers](#), Laboratory Program Manager I-Cyber Security & Resilience, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

[Jon Monken](#), Senior Partner, Converge Strategies

[Robert Redding](#), Regional Advisor, Irregular Warfare Center

12:15 PM

Lunch (on own)

[↑](#)

1:30 PM

Defense TechConnect: Energy Resilience and Infrastructure: CIE's Impact to Automation Design

Baltimore 2 [↑](#)

This talk will look at a number of design patterns in control system design that change how system designers can rethink automation when considering digital risk. Examples from energy and water sector systems are provided to emphasize these design patterns. Participants will leave with an understanding of the relationship of process automation to CIE principles. CIE brings out the resilient-by-design practices our critical engineered systems require to combat the modern digital risks faced by the growing amount of cyber-threats."

[Jeremy Jones](#), Critical Infrastructure Analyst, Idaho National Laboratory

[Cheri Caddy](#), Senior Cybersecurity Fellow, McCrary Institute for Cybersecurity & Critical Infrastructure at Auburn University

[Vivek Kumar Singh](#), Urban Energy Modeller/Climate, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

2:00 PM

Defense TechConnect, Army XTech Pavilion, SBIR/STTR Agency Tabletops, and Smart Cities Connect Expo Hall Opens

Prince George BC [↑](#)

3:30 PM

Defense TechConnect: Energy Resilience and Infrastructure: Ensuring Safety and Resilience in Grid-Scale Energy Storage Systems

Baltimore 2 [↑](#)

This panel convenes leading detection experts from academia and industry to explore the multifaceted challenge of energy storage safety. Panelists will examine real-world incidents and share insights into emerging detection technologies, including advanced gas sensors and thermal monitoring systems, that enable early fault identification and risk mitigation. The discussion will also cover operational protocols, manufacturing best practices, and evolving standards that collectively reduce system vulnerability and support safe integration. By spotlighting lessons learned and forward-looking strategies, the panel will provide a cross-sector roadmap for embedding safety and resilience into the next generation of energy storage systems.

[Paul Ohodnicki](#), Co-Founder and Chief Scientist, Sensible Photonics

Michelle McGregor-Smith

[Juliana Ocampo Giraldo](#), Project Manager, Idaho National Laboratory

Leland Johnson

3:30 PM

Defense TechConnect: Energy Resilience and Infrastructure: Critical Minerals Security: Strengthening Digital Infrastructure Resilience through

Baltimore 3 [↑](#)

Sustainable Supply Chains Part 2

This engaging session examines how critical mineral supply chains underpin digital infrastructure resilience. Distinguished by its structured discussion format, the session includes guided audience feedback segments to culminate in a practical "Supply Chain Resilience Checklist" takeaway synthesizing key insights. The panel will explore: 1. How mineral supply disruptions cascade through digital systems 2. Methodologies for quantifying supply chain risks 3. Developing North American capabilities to reduce foreign dependencies The session highlights the strategic US-Canada critical infrastructure partnership, supported by bilateral agreements and protection frameworks. Through moderated Q&A and audience polling, participants will contribute to identifying sector-specific resilience priorities. Canstar's development of Canadian mineral projects demonstrates how private entities can strengthen resilience through responsible North American resource development. Canstar's development of Canadian mineral projects demonstrates how private entities can strengthen resilience through responsible North American resource development.

[Nyla Beth Gawel](#), Founder & CEO, NBG Strategy Consulting

[Sheila Casserly](#), Director of Digital Policy for the Americas, Schneider Electric

[Saskia Duyvesteyn](#), Chief Advisor of Research and Development, Rio Tinto

Luke Ren, Chief of Staff, Terra AI

[Juan Carlos Giron Jr.](#), President and CEO, Canstar Resources Inc.

[Dustin Angelo](#), COO and Co-Founder, Novamera Inc.

4:00 PM	SBIR/STTR: Agency Tabletops Reception	Prince George BC ↑
	Visit with participating SBIR/STTR Federal Agencies and Defense Primes and learn more about areas of interest for small businesses and universities	

4:00 PM	Defense TechConnect, Army XTech Pavilion, Fall SBIR/STTR, and Fall Smart Cities Expo and Reception	Prince George BC ↑
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THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2025 [↑](#)

7:30 AM	Registration (7:30am-6:00pm)	Woodrow Wilson Lobby ↑
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8:30 AM	Defense TechConnect, Industry, and Drone Dominance Symposium Keynotes	Woodrow Wilson A ↑
	Welcome and Opening Remarks Jennifer Rocha , Strategic Partnerships, TechConnect Division, ATI Overview of Drone Dominance Symposium and Challenge Paul Dudley, ATI and Tom von Eschenbach, Parry Labs , Drone Dominance Symposium Opening Remarks, VLC and Parry Labs Fireside Chat with 3B: A Story of Innovative Defense Systems for Today's Threats in the U.S. and Around the World Dominic Dillon , CEO & President, 3B Protection Fireside Chat Hosted by Mr. Marty Ryan, Vice President of Naval Technologies, ATI Anthony Pugliese , Director of the Office of Technology Commercialization and the Chief Commercialization Officer, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Keynote Panel: Deep Tech Investments in Support of Defense and National Security Moderator: Jennifer Rocha , Strategic Partnerships, TechConnect Division, ATI Speakers: Sapna Patel , Principal, MCN Ventures Tom Gillespie , Partner Head of Alliance Fund, Geodesic Capital Jennifer Thabet , Office Director, Small Business Programs Office, DARPA The Status of SBIR Reauthorization from the SBIRC Perspective John Williams , Executive Director, Small Business Innovation Research Consortium (SBIRC)	

10:00 AM	Coffee Break	Woodrow Wilson Lobby ↑
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10:30 AM	Defense TechConnect: Energy Resilience and Infrastructure: Cyber Risk Standards Mashup: NERC-CIP and Cyber Security Model Certification (CMMC)	Baltimore 2 ↑
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All critical infrastructure asset owners need to implement basic cybersecurity measures, to include managing supply chain risk. But there are a lot of standards and guidelines out there, and different types of critical infrastructure are increasingly interconnected. The definition of Defense Critical Electric Infrastructure (DCEI) by congress in 2015 and the definition of the Energy Sector Industrial Base by the Department of Energy in 2022 offer an example of two critical infrastructure sectors intersecting. Energy Sector asset owners are familiar with NERC-CIP compliance. CMMC, founded in the Department of Defense and the Defense Industrial Base, is a cyber certification model that is maturing and expanding across federal agencies and into other countries. How do these different cyber compliance regimes intersect, and can they complement one another? This expert panel will compare both compliance regimes, discuss how they increasingly intersect, and provide insights into the future evolution of cybersecurity compliance.

[Chris Haigh](#), CEO, Meerkat Cyber

[Dave Halla](#), Sr. Program Manager, Battelle

[Guy Walsh](#), Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA)

[Cheri Caddy](#), Advisor, Independent

10:30 AM

Defense TechConnect: Energy Resilience and Infrastructure: Grid Resilience and Extreme Weather: Is the Threat Real or Overstated? Are we truly prepared?

Baltimore 3 

As the fear associated with extreme weather intensifies, the electric grid faces mounting threats from wildfires, polar plunges, hurricanes and tornadoes, and shifting demand patterns. Yet, a growing debate questions whether current resilience planning is grounded in science or driven by regulatory and political pressure. This panel will explore the technical tensions surrounding grid adaptation—drawing from recent strategies of utility planning, DOE guidance, and industry responses.

[Jake Gentle](#), Senior Technical Manager, Idaho National Laboratory (INL)

[Aaron Smallwood](#), Senior Managing Director, Industry Solutions, Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA)

Justin Knighten, Sustainable Future Fellow, GW Alliance for a Sustainable Future

[Suedeene Kelly](#), Partner, Jenner & Block

[Craig Connelly](#), Vice President of Business Transformation Energy & Innovation, WSP

11:30 AM

Defense TechConnect: Energy Resilience and Infrastructure: IEEE Papers 1

Baltimore 2 

This session highlights the best accepted papers from the IEEE, featuring significant research and innovative solutions. The event brought together experts from around the nation to discuss the latest advancements in technology and engineering.

[Damilola Popoola](#), PhD-Research Assistant, Iowa State University

[Vivek Kumar Singh](#), Urban Energy Modeller/Climate, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

11:30 AM

Defense TechConnect: Energy Resilience and Infrastructure: Collaborative Panel: Managing Infrastructure Interdependencies and Regional Resilience with a Watershed-focused Approach

Baltimore 3 

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), in collaboration with the University of Georgia (UGA) and the University of Virginia (UVA), is advancing a toolset to evaluate watershed-level resilience across USACE operational projects. This features the characterization and management of infrastructure interdependencies within and beyond USACE operations in achieving regional and systems resilience. This special session will feature a panel that explores conceptual frameworks and practical tools for identifying and analyzing these interdependencies. Dr. Michael Deegan (USACE) will open by providing an overview of infrastructure interdependencies between USACE projects and other critical infrastructure systems. Negin Shamsi (UGA) will then discuss different classifications of infrastructure interdependencies and highlight available assessment tools. Dr. Davis C. Loose (UVA) will introduce a prototype screening tool alongside a case study to demonstrate mapping infrastructure interdependencies within a specific basin. The session will conclude with a moderated discussion aimed at fostering a bidirectional exchange of ideas between panelists and audience members. This interactive format is intended to encourage new ideas for assessing resilience and infrastructure interdependencies at the watershed scale.

[Negin Shamsi](#), Graduate Research Assistant, University of Georgia

[Davis Loose](#), Data Scientist and Researcher, University of Virginia

12:15 PM

Lunch (on own)



1:30 PM

Defense TechConnect: Energy Resilience and Infrastructure: Operationalizing Resilient AI/ML Models: Out of the Lab and Into Production

Baltimore 2 

This panel discussion will focus on the best practices for safely, reliably, and resiliently running AI/ML models in a critical production environment. Learn what questions you should be asking in order to best prepare yourself for operating your models on a live, continuous basis. From technical aspects such as understanding how to measure and detect model drift over time, to organizational challenges like integrating the model analysis results and awareness of key AI security and operational risks into your existing business processes, you will discover key strategies to successfully operationalize your AI/ML models.

[Alex Jenkins](#), Senior AI Solutions Engineer, Aveva

[Patience Yockey](#), Operational Technology Cybersecurity, Idaho National Laboratory

[Jeremy Jones](#), Critical Infrastructure Analyst, Idaho National Laboratory

[Juliana Ocampo Giraldo](#), Project Manager, Idaho National Laboratory

1:30 PM

Defense TechConnect: Energy Resilience and Infrastructure: Integrated Energy Infrastructure Planning under Extreme Weather Uncertainties

Baltimore 3 

Extreme weather poses significant risks to critical infrastructure operations. However, the uncertainties associated with these events pose even more challenges to energy planning activities that are looking out 5 to 50 years into the future. This session will feature insights from planners across academia, industry, and national laboratories. The discussion will cover the largest challenges observed from each distinct perspective and how extreme weather risk is currently being incorporated into integrated energy system planning efforts.

[J. Kyle Skolfield](#), Research Scientist, Sandia National Laboratory (SNL)

[Nicole Jackson](#), Energy Research Analyst, Sandia National Laboratories (SNL)

[Francisco Ralston Fonseca](#), Energy Research Analyst, Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)

[Payman Dehghanian](#), Associate Professor, The George Washington University

2:30 PM

Defense TechConnect: Energy Resilience and Infrastructure: Securing the Grid: Holistic Cybersecurity Strategies for Solar and other Grid Connected Resources

Baltimore 2 

This panel presents a holistic cybersecurity approach to address the vulnerabilities arising from the rapid expansion of solar and other grid-connected resources. From an OT perspective, panelists will discuss different cybersecurity defense techniques that rely on analyzing grid behaviors (e.g., physics-based signal analysis, data signature analysis). Additionally, machine learning and artificial intelligence will be examined as key tools for real-time anomaly detection within the wide area network. From an IT perspective, the panel will discuss the use of cyber-physical co-simulations to realistically model grid operations while considering transmission-distribution-grid edge coordination and network artifacts. These simulations can help validate detection methods against simulated cyber-attack scenarios, ensuring robust, adaptable solutions. Finally, the panel will highlight the use of practical cybersecurity checklists that can be used by installers to secure grid devices. This checklists are based on regulatory standards, industry practices, and installer feedback. This systematic guidance enhances operational security through the adoption of best practices (firmware updates, credential management, and network segmentation). An interactive discussion with the audience will follow, highlighting the need to improve upon existing practices, and how collaboration is key for success.

[D. Jonathan Sebastian-Cardenas](#), Electrical Engineer and Computer scientist, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)

[Abhishek Ramchandran](#), Senior Key Expert - Critical Infrastructure Testing, Siemens Corporation

[Zhihua Qu](#), Data Analytics Senior Associate, University of Central Florida

[Sai Nandanoori](#), Electrical Engineer, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)

3:15 PM

SBIR/STTR: Intellectual Property and Defense Tech

Woodrow Wilson D



3:30 PM

Defense TechConnect: Energy Resilience and Infrastructure: Buzzword Soup: Using Zero-Trust to Secure Critical Infrastructure with and from AI-driven Technologies

Baltimore 2 

As the energy sector becomes increasingly digitized, the explosion of machine-to-machine connections—now vastly outnumbering human ones—has introduced a new frontier of cybersecurity challenges. This session dives into the convergence of cloud, wireless, and Artificial Intelligence (AI)-agent technologies in modern grid security, unpacking how Zero Trust Architecture (ZTA) and AI

technologies can be used both to secure critical infrastructure and to defend against the very AI systems being deployed within it. Experts from national laboratories, utilities, and industry will present cutting-edge research and field deployments that integrate Zero Trust principles—such as continuous authentication, least privilege access, and micro-segmentation—with AI/ML techniques for real-time anomaly detection, behavior modeling, and autonomous threat response in operational technology (OT) environments. A special focus will be placed on the unique challenges of securing non-human machine identities and communications, where traditional access control methods fall short. The session will also feature a case study from a DOE-funded collaboration with Constellation, showcasing how a Zero Trust framework for machines has been successfully deployed across the largest fleet of nuclear plants in the U.S. Attendees will gain insight into the evolving regulatory landscape, risk management frameworks, and public-private R&D initiatives that aim to future-proof the grid against sophisticated cyber threats.

[Marissa Morales-Rodriguez](#), Founder and Technology Security Strategist, STEMPRISE
[Keith Rose](#), Chief Executive Officer, Operant Networks
[Daryl Haegley](#), Technical Director, Control Systems Cyber Resiliency, U.S. Air & Space Force
[Vivek Kumar Singh](#), Urban Energy Modeller/Climate, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

3:30 PM	Defense TechConnect: Energy Resilience and Infrastructure: IEEE Papers 2	Baltimore 3 
This session highlights the best accepted papers from the IEEE, featuring significant research and innovative solutions. The event brought together experts from around the nation to discuss the latest advancements in technology and engineering.		
Nicole Jackson , Energy Research Analyst, Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) Matthew Gunn , Olive B. and Franklin C. Mac Krell Jefferson Fellow, The University of Virginia Mohammed Ben-Idris , Associate Professor and Director of the E-RESILIENCY Research Laboratory, Michigan State University		
4:00 PM	Defense TechConnect, Army XTech Pavilion, SBIR/STTR Agency and Defense Primes Tabletops, and Smart Cities Connect Expo Social	Prince George BC 
4:15 PM	Defense TechConnect: Energy Resilience and Infrastructure: Posters and Reception	Prince George BC 
View the posters and raise a glass to the poster presenters! Complimentary drink tickets will be available.		



FRIDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2025

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