

Making obsolescence issues feel almost... obsolete



David Mueller, Vice President Strategic Programs, Argo Turbo and Saadia Malik, Senior Design Engineer, OPG chat at the ATC Nuclear booth during the workshop.

Year 2 of the COG Obsolescence Workshop offered more opportunities for collaboration to address challenges and find solutions to an aging problem

Obsolescence is a complex issue, which can have serious ramifications for nuclear utilities if it is not managed well.

As many of the nuclear power plants around the world aged, and with limited new build activity in the west, the business drivers that would incent equipment vendors to maintain their nuclear qualifications waned.

Managing obsolescence in isolation is costly, inefficient and nearly impossible. In recognition of these challenges, COG member utilities had a strong desire to collaborate and in 2015, COG held its first Obsolescence Management workshop. Our goal was to provide a forum where the industry players can share knowledge, experiences and ideas on how to manage this complex and multi-faceted problem.

This year, COG held the event again in Toronto on Sept. 15-16 with an excellent turn out of about 55 people representing virtually all of the CANDU utilities (OPG, BPLP, NBP, CNNO NPP3, KHNP, SNN), Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) and 18 vendor companies, says COG Project Manager, Joint Projects & Service and event

organizer Nidhi Gaudani, who noted about 90 per cent of the 2015 participants returned this year in addition to new participants.

The direction and strong support of the COG Procurement Engineering Peer Group (PEPG) significantly contributed to the success of the workshop, organized to meet the following objectives:

- Bring together representatives from CANDU stations around the globe so that they could learn from each other's successes and share problems;
- Stay current on industry activities and initiatives;
- Provide a forum for vendors to showcase their expertise and engineering capabilities in response to the needs expressed by CANDU utilities; and
- Provide a networking opportunity with industry peers to make connections and build trust towards developing synergistic relationships for collaboration.

Together, COG members and suppliers are improving operators' ability to sustain healthy plant life longer.



Participants started Day 1 with a speed networking session. With representation across virtually all of the CANDU utilities, it was an opportunity to make new connections.

The Obsolescence Workshop

Day 1 started with a speed networking session followed by utility presentations highlighting recent success stories. The theme of the afternoon session was industry collaboration under which Nuclear Utility Obsolescence Group (NUOG) and COG representatives presented.

Day 2 began with vendor presentations on engineering capabilities and solutions they can offer to CANDU utilities for the resolution of their obsolescence issues. Participants provided very positive feedback and confirmed the two COG joint projects -- Shared Obsolescence Solutions and Equivalency Uploads via CMIS Lite Integration -- are directionally correct.

The workshop proceedings are available to COG utility members and COG supplier participants on COGonline.