



The business value of CIGRÉ participation

- a perspective from Study Committee B3 - Substations

One of the fundamental aims of CIGRÉ is to ensure that we add value to our members and member organisations worldwide by sharing information and improving knowledge of state-of-the-art practices.

Study Committee B3 (SC B3) aims to enhance the business case for CIGRÉ membership and participation and this paper articulates the benefits that study committee members have already noted. The development of this paper is in alignment with the strategic objectives adopted by the Study Committee.

Many of our members have been involved in utilities, manufacturing, management, universities or consulting for many years and CIGRÉ work and expertise has provided us all with information to do our jobs and to manage assets better.

CIGRÉ involvement has helped member organisations to develop knowledge and expertise and has assisted the development of both experienced and younger engineers. For more experienced engineers, CIGRÉ is one of the very few avenues for global professional development.

Importantly there are real “bottom-line” benefits for business that can sometimes be overlooked in terms of reducing cost and increasing reliability that can be directly attributed to knowledge gained from the investment in CIGRÉ.

Study Committee B3 members have formulated the following list of benefits arising from their CIGRÉ participation and activities in the various committees, working groups and advisory areas:

General Benefits

- The opportunity to collaborate and “brain-storm” with experts from around the globe to identify potential for groundbreaking initiatives.
- Easy access and the development of understanding of the industry “state of the art” and “best practice”.
- Opportunity to problem-solve in a non-competitive environment
- Shared experience in major disasters and accidents that have occurred around the globe to assist in avoiding such events in own organisation or country.
- Work with others to benefit the organisation and the whole community tackling big industry problems.
- Ability to influence and build linkages with external organisations and standards bodies such as IEC, IEEE, JEC and others.
- Provide technical information for standardization – In cases when technical knowledge is missing to write standards in IEC or IEEE, the knowledge basis is often developed by CIGRÉ expertise and experience of members.
- From a more global perspective, providing relevant guidelines for electrification of developing economies and remote areas.
- Sharing of information, experience and knowledge to allow organisations to informally benchmark against world best practice.
- Members have access to unlimited technical information using the e-cigre online database for

Technical Brochures, Electra articles and Session papers.

- Opportunity to participate in working groups that bring together, technical, commercial and management expertise from different global backgrounds.

Professional Development

- Self Development - CIGRÉ provides an avenue to develop and grow professional knowledge and expertise in the specialized field of Transmission and Distribution substations, enhancing reputation and expertise.
- Networking – CIGRÉ enables individuals to build effective personal and technical networks for knowledge sharing and for consultation when required.
- Opportunity to share experience with a global network to develop technical and non-technical skills.
- The ability to meet and network with skilled people in areas of specialization from around the world enhancing knowledge and confidence, providing a wider perspective.
- Development of younger engineers by their participation in CIGRÉ activities and access to relevant technical information. This is one of the most important benefits of CIGRÉ activity.
- Enhance engineering reputation and credibility using knowledge based on global experience, providing recognition of expertise.
- Assists in the development of non-technical skills such as oral and written foreign language skills and the presentation of technical material to a diverse audience.
- Enables participants to be leaders in their chosen field within their sphere of influence.

Business Improvement

- Improved safety based on better information on risks from global sources.
- Better Asset Management – by using the knowledge available through CIGRÉ activities and publications obtain better information on assets and the issues experienced by others to enable better management of asset portfolio.
- Cost Savings and Improved reliability – gain knowledge and exposure to new and emerging technologies that reduce cost and improve reliability
- High return on investment for business considering the low annual membership fees and staff time, travel and accommodation cost.
- Enables continuous benchmarking of own company with the industry worldwide in your field.
- Staff motivation and development – participation in CIGRÉ enables our staff to develop better skills and knowledge to benefit the local organisation.
- Provide recognition of an organisations technical experts as internationally recognized for third parties such as regulators, investors, bankers, insurers, public authorities and other legal entities
- Knowledge Sharing – By sharing information with other organisations through CIGRÉ activities, our organisations benefit from the collective experience of others. There is less chance of “reinventing the wheel”.
- Access to Literature Library for all member staff – access to free Technical Brochures and other documents on a wide variety of relevant topics for all members and staff of member organisations.
- Opportunity to gain knowledge of other organisations practices contributing to cost savings and reliability including out-sourcing, maintenance, condition monitoring and other asset management

activities.

- Allows companies to express views and disseminate innovations, create a global consensus in an international context in preparation of a future standard
- The opportunity to influence the industry and standards bodies for the development of new industry standards.
- Development of understanding of cost drivers and the basis of costs for other organisations to assist in the development of asset management strategies and plans and for benchmarking purposes.
- Cost saving for the organisation in better asset decision-making based on the collective experience of others with a wide range operational and environmental conditions.
- Ability to influence designs and the strategies for manufacturers providing a feedback method for manufacturers to hear from customers of high voltage equipment
- Ability to influence and share information with Universities and researchers to better align curriculum or research topics to industry requirements

Universities

- Identification of new areas for research and development activities.
- Sharing information with industry to allow curriculum modification and supplement to meet industry skill requirements for graduates.
- Provide information to support post-graduate studies including Masters and PhD students.

In addition to developing this paper to share the benefits story, in SC B3 we have also initiated the preparation of a “Popular Report” for each of our Study Committee events and meetings. This is prepared as a short presentation summarizing the key benefits from that event, written in a form that is aimed at a broader audience, including management. All members are free to take this generic presentation and adapt it for their own internal or external purposes. This has been very successful and is aptly named as “popular”.

This Study Committee B3 initiative to share our collective views on the benefits is to assist organisations and individuals to understand the value of CIGRÉ participation and the opportunities that membership and participation can bring to an organisation.

CIGRÉ is helping the electric industry to become more reliable, more efficient and safer, and as members we are part of the communication chain to our teams, our organisations and countries and our own area of work. CIGRÉ is assisting the improvement of our world and our participation means that we are part of that.

Terry Krieg,
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