

From: Plowfield, Carole
Sent: Thu, 13 Mar 2025 16:33:02 +0000
To: Fitzsimmons, Alexander
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congratulations!! And Speaker for ARPA_E Summit

Hi, Alex!

Congratulations on being named COS for Secretary Wright, it is so exciting and so well-deserved!!

It's also nice to see so many from our old team back there, Secretary Wright is fortunate to have you all with your experience on how things work there.

I was planning to reach out to you when the dust settled a bit, I know how busy transitions are in the first 100 days, but was contacted this morning about the ARPA-E Summit next week, and your name was mentioned, so now seemed like a good time – see an excerpt of a message I sent below internally looking for an EPRI speaker for you:

This just came in this morning, a request for Arshad or another EPRI speaker on AI to be considered by the Secretary speak at DOE's ARPA-E Summit next week, (ARPA-e is hosting its annual Energy Innovation Summit next week (17-19 MAR) at the Gaylord Resort in National Harbor, MD.) link to Summit webpage is below. They are still looking to fill a main stage panel position for Wednesday 19 MAR 9:00-10:00am.

Details of the panel follow:

Panel: Enabling an AI World

Potomac Ballroom/9:00-10:00 Wednesday 19 MAR/Gaylord National Harbor

As the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in our society grows, so too must the infrastructure that empowers AI. Of particular importance is the critical increase in energy generation, transmission, and storage for power-hungry AI systems and the data centers that enable them. This session will feature players from across the AI power value chain discussing the challenges facing a growing AI society, the innovations needed to secure the energy demand, improve grid operations efficiency, increase reliability/resiliency/capacity, and how AI-centric world will look.

[Home - ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit](#)

The bottom line from the email trail is that Laura Schepis from NEMA introduced Chip Cotton, who is part of the leadership team at Xignux and GEProlec (makes Transformers in US and Mexico).

He is helping Secretary Wright and Alex Fitzsimmons build out a high-level ARPA-e event on AI and Energy next week.

They asked if we would be willing to talk with Chip about placing an EPRI speaker on the consideration list for the Secretary?

Laura said she knows Arshad's enthusiasm for this topic but also his travel schedule, and said he might be just what this event and the ongoing conversation need.

I asked Chip to schedule a call with me right away to get more details, but wanted to get a direct line started with you so things don't get lost in the communications, and actually couldn't wait to get started on working with you again!!

Looking forward to it,
Carole

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