

**Bertie Strydom, Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), South Africa**

Bertie Strydom is a senior project development manager in the IDC's "New Industries" business unit. He is currently responsible for energy storage industry development and associated project developments. His experience includes industry development, project development and implementation, project financing, system engineering, operational management and logistics engineering. He joined the IDC in 1995 and has gained experience in various roles and capacities. He also worked at the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (PBMR) for a five-year period prior to rejoining the IDC in 2010. Prior to joining the IDC, Bertie worked in industries such as telecommunications, system engineering, quality assurance and venture capital. He is an electronics engineer from the University of Pretoria and also holds an honours degree in Business Economics from UNISA.



**Maxine Ghavi, ABB, Switzerland**

Maxine Ghavi is the group senior vice-president and global programme director for micro-grids at ABB in Switzerland. She has more than 25 years' experience in business development, product marketing, product management, marketing and sales across multiple industries including renewables, software and semiconductor capital equipment. Ghavi has held a number of senior positions including Head of Solar Industry Segment Initiative at ABB, Head of Business Management at Oerlikon Solar, VP Sales at Voyan Technology and Senior Product Manager at KLA-Tencor. She obtained her bachelor's degree in physics from San Jose State University in California.

**David Sekgororwana, Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), South Africa**

David Sekgororwana is a senior industry development manager at the Industrial Development Corporation (new industries SBU). He holds a BSc in chemical engineering from the University of Cape Town and completed his Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the Gordon Institute of Business Science. He has over 20 years' experience spanning research and development (R&D) in metallurgy, petrochemical operations, strategy and business funding. He currently assists entrepreneurs to build and grow profitable businesses which will make a difference in Africa.



**Dr. Markus Pöller, Moeller Poeller Engineering (MPE), Germany**

Dr. Markus Pöller is co-founder and managing director of the German/British consulting company MPE. He is also a lecturer at the University of Stuttgart on the subject of "grid integration for wind energy". Before starting MPE in 2012, Pöller was a joint managing director of software and consulting company Digsilent. Pöller is an international power system consultant with close ties to South Africa, where he has been involved in various power system projects since 1998. He has been working with GIZ, since 2012, on the implementation of the grid integration component of the South African – German Energy Programme (SAGEN) and provides support to various South African stakeholders to successfully integrate renewable energies into the South African power system. He holds a PhD from the University of Hanover, Germany, and Dipl.-Ing. degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Stuttgart, Germany, and in electronics and telecommunications from Télécom ParisTech, France.

**Uwe Fuchs, Siemens, Germany**

Uwe Fuchs has 24 years' experience in the electrical infrastructure business. He has worked for ABB and Siemens in Asia, Africa and Europe. For the last five years he has been responsible for business development and sales of Siemens energy storage solutions. Fuchs is based at the company's global headquarters in Germany. His major focus is on energy storage systems in combination with the existing conventional power generation. He has a diploma in mechanical engineering from the Technical University RWTH Aachen, Germany and an Executive Master in Business Administration (EMBA) from the University of West Florida, USA.





**Thava Govender, Eskom,  
South Africa**

Thava Govender's involvement in the energy sector began in the early 1990s when he was granted an Eskom bursary to study a degree in chemistry and biochemistry. His graduate-in-training programme was based at a power station. During this time, he completed an honours degree in energy studies. His years as a young professional were entrenched in the energy industry. He became the chemical services manager at the same power station and thereafter worked at different power stations in various managerial positions (including engineering manager) before eventually becoming the power

station manager at Kendal Power Station – one of the world's largest coal-fired power stations. Since then he has managed Eskom's generation division, Eskom Enterprises, Eskom Transmission and Customers Services, and now he is managing both the Transmission and Sustainability & Risk Divisions. He has experienced the full ambit of the electricity supply value chain. He is a member of the Eskom Executive Committee (EXCO), as well as various sub-committees of EXCO. He serves on the Social, Ethics and Sustainability Committee of the Eskom Board of Directors. He is a director of Eskom Enterprises and a member of the board of Rotek and Roshcon (an Eskom Enterprises subsidiary). He is also the chair of the council of Eskom's Academy of Learning. He was appointed as a board member of the USA-based board of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) in March 2015. He is also the vice-president of the GO15's steering board (a body that comprises the largest electricity transmission grid operators in the world) for 2017 and president designate for 2018. He is also a member of the Coal Industry Advisory Board – a body that advises the International Energy Agency (IEA) on coal related matters. He is a member of the executive committee of the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), and the executive sponsor for the Eskom Expo for Young Scientists.



**Dr. Tobias Bischof-Niemz,  
Enertrag, Germany**

Dr. Tobias Bischof-Niemz is a director of Enertrag SA in Cape Town, and the head of corporate business development at Enertrag, Germany. Prior to this, he established and led the energy centre at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) which, under his leadership, became the first port of call for decision

makers on the Southern African energy transition. Before joining the CSIR, Tobias worked as chief engineer for the system operator of Eskom. In this role he was instrumental in the development of the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) 2010 and 2013. Tobias served as a member of the South African Ministerial Advisory Council on Energy (MACE) that advised South Africa's former minister of energy on long-term, strategic energy topics. Originally from Germany, Tobias worked in the Frankfurt office of the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) for five years before migrating to South Africa. Bischof-Niemz studied mechanical engineering with a focus on systems and energy engineering at the University of California, Berkeley and at the Technical University of Darmstadt. He holds masters and a PhD degree from TU Darmstadt, and a Master of Public Administration on energy policymaking from Columbia University in New York City. He is married and has three children.



**Dr. Jeremy Hargreaves,  
Energy & Environmental  
Economics (E3), USA**

Dr. Jeremy Hargreaves is a power systems expert with expertise in the technical and commercial aspects of energy storage, electricity grids, and power generation assets. He has performed renewable integration and system planning studies in

California for the five largest utilities, and performed least cost resource planning for the Hawaiian electric companies to reach Hawaii's goal of 100% renewables by 2045. He has developed local integrated resource planning models in the US and internationally to identify optimal resource portfolios in transmission constrained areas, including the Integrated Demand Side Management model for Consolidated Edison – winner of the 2014 Utility Analytics Institute Innovation Award. He has conducted many storage cost effectiveness assessments and developed storage evaluation models. He is a principal architect of the E3 REFLEX model for long term system capacity and flexibility planning. He holds a PhD and MSE from Johns Hopkins University in Geography and Environmental Engineering, and a MEng in chemical engineering from Imperial College, London.



**Dr. Michael Thackeray, Argonne National  
Laboratories, USA**

Dr. Michael Thackeray is an Argonne Distinguished Fellow and senior scientist in the Electrochemical Energy Storage department of the Chemical Sciences and Engineering division at Argonne National Laboratory. He received his PhD from the University of Cape Town, South Africa (1977) and studied as a post-doctoral visitor at Oxford University, UK. He was manager of the Battery Unit at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) before moving to Argonne in 1994. From 2009 to 2014, he served as director of the US Department of Energy's "Energy Frontier Research Centre", the Centre

for Electrical Energy Storage. Dr. Thackeray has focused his career on unraveling structure-electrochemical relationships in solid electrodes and electrolytes for battery systems and in designing new or improved materials. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, he contributed to the early concepts of high-temperature sodium-metal chloride (Zebra) batteries, and pioneered the discovery of several transition-metal-oxide electrode materials for lithium batteries, notably the spinel  $\text{LiMn}_2\text{O}_4$ . He is also recognised for designing composite electrode structures to enhance the performance of Li-ion battery systems. He has authored or co-authored more than 225 scientific publications and is credited with 59 patents, several of which have been licensed to industry on an international scale. Dr. Thackeray is on the board of directors of the International Battery Association, having served as board chairman (2015 - 2017) and president (1999 - 2002). He is a fellow of the Electrochemical Society. His career in battery science and technology has been widely recognised, his most recent awards being the American Chemical Society E.V. Murphree Award in Industrial and Engineering Chemistry (2016) and the National Alliance for Advanced Transportation Batteries (NAATBatt) Lifetime Achievement Award (2017).