

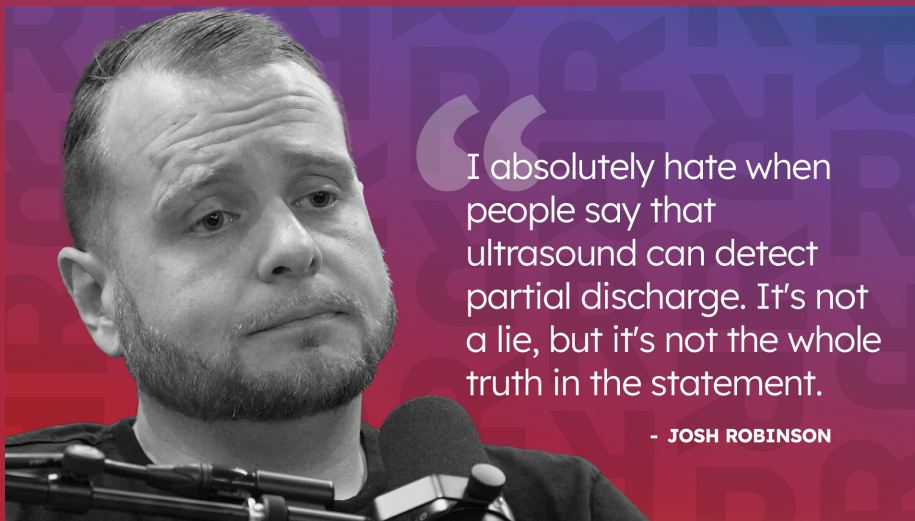
THE TRUTH ABOUT ULTRASOUND AND PARTIAL DISCHARGE

In the world of electrical reliability, assumptions can be costly - and half-truths, even more so.

"Ultrasound can detect partial discharge." It's a claim you've probably heard before. But according to Josh Robinson, it's only part of the truth. In his RED Talk, *The Truth About Ultrasound and Partial Discharge*, Robinson breaks down what that statement really means - and why repeating it without context is a problem for everyone in the field.

"It's not a lie," Robinson says. *"But it's not the whole truth. And that makes us all look bad."*

The episode dives into a persistent misunderstanding in the maintenance and inspection industry: that a single tool can detect every form of partial discharge. But PD isn't a one-size-fits-all phenomenon. There's surface PD - like arcing, tracking, and corona - and there's subsurface PD, the kind of hidden insulation failure that leads to catastrophic equipment blowouts. Only one of those makes a noise that ultrasound can hear.



So what happens when a technician relies on the wrong method - or a sales pitch that oversells its capabilities? What crucial warning signs are being missed?

Robinson uses simple, relatable analogies to make a complex topic click: a garden hose with a hidden pinhole; electrons "dripping" from a wire like a leaky tap.

His delivery is candid, a little irreverent, and deeply informed by hands-on experience. He doesn't pull punches - especially when it comes to the gap between what tools can do and what they're sold to do.

If you work with high-voltage equipment, if you spec out testing programs, or if you've ever had to sit through a product demo and wonder what's real and what's fluff - this is a talk you need to hear.

Robinson also introduces tools many in the industry overlook: TEV sensors, HFCT clamps, UHF blocks for gas-insulated switchgear. He doesn't just point out the problem - he shows the right way to tackle it.

But more than anything, his message is a call for honesty. *"I'd like to see sales guys who lie less,"* he says. *"Because when one person overpromises, it makes the rest of us look like we don't know what we're doing."*





RED Talks features voices who challenge assumptions and move the conversation forward.

Josh Robinson's episode is one of our sharpest yet - raw, practical, and grounded in real-world experience. No marketing gloss. No fluff. Just the kind of clarity that helps keep systems safe and reliable.

Think you already know what ultrasound can do? Watch this first.



**JOSH ROBINSON
ULTRASOUND
AND PARTIAL
DISCHARGE**

Watch [Josh Robinson's RED Talk](#) now.

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