

Dear Readers,

When I was first offered to become the Editor in Chief, three thoughts came to mind immediately: First was, why me, did everyone else turn it down? The second was the reason for the first; my passion for transformers was less about their technical nature than it was about their reliability. As the Vice President of Reliability for one of the North American leading companies in transformer maintenance, oil testing, training and field service, that has been my primary focus, not on their technology.

But the third and perhaps most important objection was: why? Why did we need a magazine called Transformer Technology? It was the answer to that last question that made the difference - a realization that we need a North and South American focused publication that would bring the best and the brightest together, as readers, as contributors, as advertisers. You have before you, I am proud to say, our first issue, focused on new technology or adaptations and updates of older technology for transformers.

The authors have been tremendously gracious to share their knowledge and expertise without having a previous issue as a template. That is an accomplishment in and of itself. Their willingness to trust and to meet the deadlines and submit to an editing process still in development, has been something I will personally remember and treasure. Excellence is one of my most important personal challenges and something they achieved in our first issue.

There were two important aims that we defined before embarking on this project. The first was that we would produce a magazine, both digital and print, a daily news feed and an interactive website distinguished by excellence. We have a team handling the heavy lifting when it comes to the actual articles from drafts to layout and print, and they are a delight to work with. And my own personal champion, Rachel Linke, has been tremendous in keeping me and our contributors organized and on track. Thank you all for your commitment to excellence as well. Also, a great thank you to Dale Bissonette and all the people at SDMyers, who have sponsored my journey into the world of transformers and transformer technology and reliability for nigh on a decade now. Without their support, none of this would have been possible.

The second was that we created a learning arc, where we could approach transformer technology in a cohesive and logical manner, rather than cobbling together a bunch of articles, most of which did not relate to each other, just to be the

filler for advertising. As you can see, this first issue is all about "New" Transformer Technology and we barely scratched the surface. Rest assured this theme will be repeated from time to time as we see the need for publishing changes and updates. The June issue will be themed "The Revolution in Dry Type Transformers" given the many changes taking place in that segment of the industry. Future issues in September and December will focus on "Testing and Monitoring Best Practices" and "Critical Failure Modes and Prevention", respectively.

Recently, I had a chance to attend or review several major conferences and/or exhibitions, which, by the way, will be one of our goals at Transformer Technology - keeping you up to date with events or conferences related to or affecting transformers. The first event was the bi-annual IEEE PES Conference in Denver last year and the second was DistribuTECH, which was held this year in New Orleans. What amazed me most about both events was how much digital technology, software and Artificial Intelligence (AI) or Machine Learning (ML) seemed to be the rage. Will any of these changes in the marketplace impact transformer technology in the future? You can be certain they will and we will be there, reporting on what is new and relevant.

That leads me to a commitment: Just because something is new does not mean it is useful or relevant. At a recent Reliability Conference, I coined the term UIoT or the Useful Internet of Things. That was in the midst of a full day of short presentations devoted to AI and ML from the perspective of reliability. With over 30 presenters, it became hard to separate the wheat from the chaff. How much of what is coming will be needed or useful? Our hope is to sift through the chaff and bring you only the wheat as it relates to transformer technology.

As an engineer, I like to look at things from the perspective of a problem to be solved, and most engineers I know are the same way. We were drawn to engineering by the need to know and the desire to solve problems. Electrical, mechanical, chemical or any engineering discipline for that matter all have as the core the desire to know and to understand. Most engineers are life-long learners and the writers in this issue are great examples of that. I expect you'll hear from them again in these pages. I commit to you, our readers, that we will strive to be a great source of new knowledge, while building on the existing body of knowledge that has stood the test of time. We will also face the challenge of a changing of the guard as boomers retire and a new

generation takes their place. I looked at legacy knowledge in an article that I wrote for NETA, where I asked,



What if much of that legacy knowledge isn't worth passing on in the first place? What if things have changed - and are changing - so rapidly in our field of electrical system reliability that much of that legacy knowledge is outdated, or even worse, what if it is flat out wrong? Would we want to make sure the next generation learned it?

We want to make Transformer Technology an honoring of the past and a gateway to the future, where all generations can learn from each other and a place where we are building a Body of Knowledge (BoK) of old and new. If you are like me, lifelong learning is also your passion, then welcome to Transformer Technology. Personally, I will strive to meet the high expectations we have of ourselves and I challenge you to become part of our future by sharing your wisdom and experiences when it comes to transformer technology.

You can contact me at alan.ross@transformer-technology.com. I'd love to hear from you about our editorial content.

Thank you,



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