

## A Changing Landscape

This issue might well be a keepsake for anyone interested in “Best Practices for Testing, Maintenance and Monitoring” of transformers. There is past, current and future “Best Practices”. How can we have future ones? If they are future practices, then they have not yet been proven or industry-wide accepted. That is what defines a best practice by the way. Proven and accepted practices!

But in the face of advancing technology and new methodologies, we have to know when to let go of the past and accept new advances. As I read Richard Harada with his article on the use of remote infrared monitoring, it is clear that he is sharing a future best practice. Bob Rasor, Jason Dennison and Brandon Dupuis shared the best of the past and current and of course, the monitoring article from Marco Tozzi hit the nail on the head in both current and future technology for monitoring.

Being involved with Transformer Technology has stretched me much more than I thought it would and it has done so in three very distinct ways:

1. I am being challenged technically. While our Contributing Editors add technical expertise in areas I cannot, I am making a commitment to at least understand what our authors are sharing, to grasp the fundamentals and make sure they will be of interest to the average reader. We are not writing to only the technologists but to a broad array of transformer professionals. To do that, we must be relevant, reliable and make sure we don't ever use the magazine articles as filler. Our goal is to create a publication that lives on, one that is shared digitally and in print because of the value of the information we publish. That leads me to my second area of growth.



If, like me, you are inundated with emails, blogs, magazines and conferences to attend, it can be overwhelming. How do we rise above all that clutter? We make it enjoyable, shareable and challenging to become part of our community online and in print.



2. It would be much easier if all we did was publish a few magazines a year. But that is not our vision for Transformer Technologies; it is to create a “collaborative community” of professionals within the transformer industry to learn, do and teach. While I have experience building this kind of community in the past, the challenge is to do that around a subject as technical as transformers. And to do it at a time when we are awash in information. If, like me, you are inundated with emails, blogs, magazines and conferences to attend, it can be overwhelming. How do we rise above all that clutter? We make it enjoyable, shareable and challenging to become part of our community online and in print. As I just wrote this I thought, “and you thought this would be easy?” It is a testament to the amazing support I get from my team that we can attempt to pull this off. Thank you to all of you.

3. The future of information exchange is going digital and moving away from print. How can I even think that when we are the publishers of a printed magazine? I don't want us to become Blockbuster in the face of Netflix or Sears in the face of Amazon, so accept the change and embrace it for the opportunity it creates. Every printed issue is what we aim at to complete a theme. The first three have been New Technology, The Dry Type Revolution and now this edition themed, Best Practices of Testing, Maintenance and Monitoring.

**I'd like to challenge you to help us deliver the best themes of the future by contacting me at [alan.ross@transformer-technology.com](mailto:alan.ross@transformer-technology.com) and let me know what themes you would like to see for 2020 and beyond.**

How will we make this change from a print publication to an online collaborative community? We have already begun with the addition of our news feed and commentary on important news items. We don't want to just bring you the important news but also want to go behind the press releases to what it means. For instance, Siemens announced layoffs. We went behind the scenes to look at what that means as they adjust their business to new realities. It's opinion, but well informed and well intentioned.

We also added two podcast features: One on Transformer Technology and one called Legends. Podcasts might also show up as written interviews in future issues. You will see many more posts, sharing insights into the articles and podcasts we publish, and we welcome your feedback.

Please let us know when we meet or exceed your expectations, but also when we fall short. Engage with the community. Collaborate. Share your thoughts, ideas and technology of the future. I promise, we are listening... and learning.

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