

Ralph Abbott

Bucknell University

B. S. in Mechanical Engineering

University of San Francisco

Masters of Business Administration

Mr. Abbott is an internationally recognized expert in electric utility customer communications and metering technology and applications, with emphasis on advanced technologies and market development. He has been involved with control and data acquisition systems for the utility industry for 30 years. Since 1973 he has concentrated on load management, remote metering and data acquisition, energy automation, storage heating and cooling and other demand-side technologies.

Mr. Abbott's strong technology business development skills in the industry provide clients with effective results in product definition, market assessment, technology commercialization, field test structure and management, utility diversification, joint ventures, business financing and staffing. Under his leadership, Plexus Research (now Plexus Research, an R. W. Beck Company) served leading utilities, suppliers and research institutions throughout North America, Europe and the Orient.

Before founding Plexus Research in the early 1980s, Mr. Abbott participated in founding Vedette Energy Research as Vice President and General Manager, successfully developing the first broadcast FM radio subcarrier load management system. The firm secured FCC rules changes that provided RF Broadcast spectrum as a utility communications option. The Vedette system was developed to work in concert with SCADA/EMS systems. Mr. Abbott arranged Vedette's acquisition and further technology development by ASEA Brown Boveri in 1986. Cannon Technologies now actively markets this system and has extended the protocols throughout its product line.

From his previous position as Vice President of American Science and Engineering, Mr. Abbott is recognized as the driving force behind AS&E's early success in AMR and load management, and as a basic contributor to the entire field. He developed the two largest systems in load management with Duke Power and Wisconsin Electric Power totaling more than 400,000 remote points, in addition to more than 20 other utility installations.

Through earlier senior positions in applications engineering and marketing management with several control system firms, dating back to 1962, Mr. Abbott acquired experience in direct sales, system design and application, field support and general management.



Relevant Experience

Mr. Abbott served as Principal Project Advisor on the following select projects.

- City of Seattle, Washington. AMI Acquisition, Including Business Case, Proposal Evaluation, Vendor Selection, Contract Negotiation Assistance, and Future Acceptance Testing
- Sacramento Municipal Utility District, California. Analysis of AMI Opportunities, Cost and Benefits - AMI Business Case
- Unitil Corporation, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. AMI Evaluation, Business Case, RFP, Proposal Evaluation, Vendor Selection, Deployment Plan, and Acceptance Test
- Central Vermont Public Service Corporation, Vermont. Strategic Guidance in Metering and Customer Technology Investments
- Jamaica Public Service Company. Strategic Guidance in AMI/MDM Planning, Acquisition and Deployment
- Westar Energy, Kansas. Business Case for Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) including Meter Data Management (MDM)
- National Grid, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, New York. Saturation AMR Deployment of Approximately 4 Million Endpoints
- Progress Energy, Florida and North Carolina. Multi-state AMR Project with Complex Installation Service Requirements
- California Public Utility Commission, Division of Rate Payer Advocates. AMI Technology Expert Witness
- DTE Energy, Michigan. AMI Request for Proposal and Vendor Selection
- Edison Electric Institute, Washington D.C. Guide to Smart Metering

Industry Engagements

- Mr. Abbott participates regularly in national and international conferences on utility control, demand-side technology and remote data acquisition.
- Mr. Abbott has authored many papers in the field and has been widely quoted in the utility trade press, TIME Magazine, Business Week, the Wall Street Journal, IEEE Spectrum, etc., and is a frequently invited speaker at industry symposia.
- He has testified in load management matters before state regulatory commissions in California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina and Wisconsin.
- Mr. Abbott holds four patents in communications and control systems.
- He is a member of the technical advisory committees for DistribuTECH (since 1995) and Metering Americas (since 2001). Mr. Abbott is a Registered Professional Engineer and a Senior Member of the IEEE Power Engineering Society.
- He is a charter member of AMRA.