



UTA 2024 IT CONFERENCE

October 14–17, 2024 | Huntsville, AL

[Embassy Suites by Hilton Huntsville](#)

800 Monroe Street | Huntsville, AL | 35801

HOSTED BY:
Huntsville Utilities

In the world we live in, where technology and security are changing faster than the speed of light, it is crucial that we stay current on what is going on around us and learn from others in the utility industry. This is a perfect opportunity to join forces with others in the utility and telecom sectors and explore successes and lessons learned together.

Huntsville Utilities welcomes you to **Huntsville, AL** and we look forward to entertaining you. Huntsville Utilities is a non-profit organization operating solely from the revenues produced from the sale of utility services to our customers. We provide gas, water and electricity services to the City of Huntsville and parts of Madison County, as well as parts of surrounding counties.

Huntsville is centrally located in the northernmost part of Alabama and is nicknamed “The Rocket City” because of its close association with U.S. space missions. Technology, space, and defense industries have a major presence here with the Army's Redstone Arsenal, NASA's Marshall Space Flight

Center, and Cummings Research Park. Home to several Fortune 500 companies, Huntsville also offers a broad base of manufacturing, retail, and service industries. Our quality of life is second to none - with a variety of educational, recreational, and cultural opportunities. We successfully combine the rich heritage of Southern hospitality with innovative high-tech ventures and cultural diversity. There are plenty of extracurricular activities to keep you busy, such as a visit to the Space and Rocket Center, going to the Huntsville Botanical Gardens, hiking in Monte Sano State Park, exploring the nature trail on Green Mountain, checking out Early Works Museum, shopping at Bridge Street Town Center, and so much more. Check out the Huntsville, AL area by clicking on the following link: <http://www.huntsville.org/>.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The UTA program committee is hard at work selecting several exciting topics and speakers for the 2 ½ day agenda. The most pressing technology, security, and customer service topics pertinent for utilities today are being investigated. As the agenda takes shape, there will be a number of *Utility Spotlight* presentations from member utilities.

Pre-Conference Event

The UTA program committee will be offering a **Cyber Security Round Table as a pre-conference event**. This event will take place on **Monday 10/14/24 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm** at the **Embassy Suites by Hilton**. No additional registration is needed. Mike Baughn, SR VP, CTO, Jackson Energy Authority will be our moderator this year with James Cotter Regional Homeland Security to update us on TN and National level active events to pay attention to. Bring your thoughts, your actions, your plans, and your concerns to the table and let your peers help you as you share in the discussion. **UTILITIES ONLY PLEASE.**

REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION will OPEN SOON FOR THE 2024 CONFERENCE

Conference Fee: \$200 for utility members -\$200 for vendors - \$500 for vendor booths (limited space). More Vendor info below. Lunch each conference day will be included with your paid conference fee, as well as an Opening Night Networking Event and a Closing Night Dinner with Entertainment.

- *Note: UTA will not be providing breakfast as a free breakfast is included in your hotel stay or breakfast could be purchased at the front desk if you are not a hotel room guest.*

OUR WEBSITE

USE OUR WEBSITE AS A RESOURCE

Please visit our website at www.utilitytechnology.org where you will find all you need to know about the Association, Past Events, Upcoming Events, and to register for the conference. Once registration is open, you can register as a Utility or a Vendor and add additional conference attendees to your company's registration. You will be able to pay with Credit Card or Check. This website uses

Stripe subscription for processing Credit Card payments. Checks can be mailed or brought to the conference. You can print the **Registration Confirmation** page or the email you receive. You should be able to use one of those to request a check from your AP department. If you need an invoice, please request that via email to ebarnett@jaxenergy.com. You should find the online registration and payment facility pretty intuitive, but if you have any problems with your online registration experience, you can direct emails to ebarnett@jaxenergy.com.

HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS

The Embassy Suites by Hilton Huntsville located at 800 Monroe St Huntsville, AL 35801 will be our conference hotel. The host utility has secured a mix of Standard and King rooms for 2024/10/14 - 2024/10/16. **To get the group rates, reservations must be made prior to September 13, 2024. This is a strict cutoff and will not be extended.**

- 2 Room Suite - 1 King Bed \$169 + taxes.
- 2 Room Suite - 2 Queen Beds \$169 + taxes.
- Make hotel reservations using the [Utilities Technology \(hilton.com\)](https://www.hilton.com) link or call Hilton Customer Support at 1-800-997-4058 and tell them you are with “Utilities Technology Association Conference”.
- A deposit for the first night room, taxes, fees per room reserved will be collected at the time of booking.
- Free cancellation before 11:59 PM 13 Oct 2024.
- If you have any issues creating, editing or canceling hotel reservations, you can reach out to Brooke Carter, Sales Coordinator for this Huntsville property at 256-327-7805.
- This is a non-smoking inside facility.
- Parking for overnight guests will be \$12.
- Parking for non-guests will be \$21 with complimentary parking passes for speakers attending only the day of their presentation.
- Check In: 4 pm Check Out: 11 am
- Hot breakfast included with your hotel stay.

CONFERENCE CHECK-IN

We will have an early check-in table set up just inside the Main Entrance of the Embassy Suites on Monday 10/14/2024, from 12:00 - 1:00 for those utility folks planning on coming to the Pre-Conference event and then again from 4:00 - 7:00 PM for vendors and all others.

FINAL EVENING

After our second, full day in sessions, your host utility has arranged for a **send-off** that will be a **blast off!** A Smithsonian Affiliate, the **U.S. Space & Rocket Center** houses the most complete collection of national treasures from space exploration on the plant. As you enter the USSRC Saturn V Davidson Center for Space Exploration, behold one of the “Seven Wonders of America” - the Saturn V rocket. We will begin our voyage with a private cocktail reception, where you

will have the opportunity to be fascinated with the many exhibits and hands-on interactive displays that surround this vast room. We will dine under the authentic Saturn V rocket, and have dinner prepared by the chef and professional catering staff at the USSRC. The cost of this experience is included in your paid registration. You can bring guests but will need to include a guest count during registration. The cost for a guest will be \$100 and will be added to your total amount owed during registration.

AIRPORT INFORMATION

Huntsville Airport (HSV), 1000 Glenn Hearn Blvd Huntsville, AL, 35824

HOTEL DIRECTIONS

Please use the link under Hotel Accommodations above for directions to the hotel.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please feel free to contact Ron McLeroy with our host utility or Vicky Wilson Turner, UTA President, for additional information or questions about this year's conference.

Vicky Wilson Turner
Morristown Utilities
vturner@musfiber.net
423-237-8322

Ron McLeroy
Huntsville Utilities
ron.mcleroy@hsvutil.org
256-535-1406

VENDORS

- We value the relationship we have with our vendors, and we appreciate your continued support.
- We will have Vendor Exhibit space available for up to 35 vendors to set up displays to showcase their products and services.
- Fees for vendors are \$500 for the Exhibit Space for each single company, \$200 for each person attending from your company.
 - Exhibit Space charge has increased this year. The per person attending fee remains the same.
 - Due to limited venue space and to allow for increased number of utility members to attend, there will be a TWO vendor attendee maximum allowed per vendor Exhibit Space.
- The exhibition space will include a 6x30 clothed table, 2 chairs, and electricity.
- Vendors will be allowed to set up during conference check-in, on Monday evening 10/14 beginning at 4 PM and ending at 7 PM or Tuesday morning 10/15 beginning at 7:30 AM. Program begins at 8:30.
- **UTA is offering limited Special Event Sponsorship options** to help with the cost of some of the bigger ticket items. More information about this can be found using the **Vendor Sponsorship Information** link on the Current Events page of the website.

- Heidi Slakans, UTA Vice-President, will be the vendor liaison this year. For more details or questions please reach out to Heidi at:
 - Heidi Slakans
 - Memphis Light, Gas and Water
 - HSlakans@mlgw.org
 - 901-334-8556
- **Shipping and Receiving:** Due to limitations in secured storage space, the Hotel will only accept packages as follows:
 - Boxes/packages may be sent for arrival a maximum of 48 hours prior to group arrival and will be marked with the responsible party's name, Group name, plus "Hold for Arrival Date of Monday, October 14, 2024".
 - There will be a **handling charge** as follows:
 - Boxes up to 36" x 24" x 24" \$10.00 per box
 - Larger boxes / display cases \$20.00 per box
 - Pallets \$50.00 per box
 - Packages can be picked up at the front desk, you are welcome to pay then or charge the handling charges to your room as an incidental charge. Additional labor charges may be incurred depending on the size of the shipment, at the discretion of the Hotel. Hotel will not be responsible for any shipping charges, damages or loss to any packages or boxes.
- **Ship packages to:**
 - Embassy Suites Hilton Huntsville
 - UTA – Attn: (Add your name or your Company name)
 - Hold for **Arrival Date Monday, October 14, 2024**
 - 800 Monroe St
 - Huntsville, AL 35801
 - For further instructions on shipping packages, contact Brooke Carter
 - brooke.carter@atriumhospitality.com 1-256-327-7805
- Vendors will break down their booth space on Wednesday afternoon after the last break.
- Vendors will be responsible for re-boxing, packing, and sealing any material to be shipped after the conference.
- **Vendors must schedule their own pick up with carrier, attach Shipping labels to each package, drop packages at front desk.**
- Vendors will take packages ready for shipping to the front desk to be stored in Bellman's closet until picked up by scheduled carrier.

DOOR PRIZES

*****Please plan to bring a door prize per Company***
(Value not to exceed \$25)**

We look forward to seeing you at this year's UTA Conference in Huntsville, AL!