Interview with Dr. Ed Schweitzer and Dave Whitehead

Moderators:
Cheryl Aarnio, Edward R. Murrow College of Communications student & SEL Intern
Albert Bien James, Edward R. Murrow College of Communications student
Live Streaming Available

Dr. Edmund O. Schweitzer, III, president, chairman of the board, and chief technology officer of Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. (SEL), is recognized as a pioneer in digital power protection. He is an IEEE Fellow and a member of the National Academy of Engineering. Dr. Schweitzer has received numerous awards from universities and industry associations, including four honorary doctorates and the 2012 Medal in Power Engineering, the highest award given by the IEEE. In 2019, Dr. Schweitzer was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame for his invention of the first digital protective relay. He has written dozens of technical papers and holds more than 200 patents. Dr. Schweitzer received his bachelor’s and master's degrees in electrical engineering from Purdue University, and his doctorate from Washington State University. In 1982, he founded SEL to develop and manufacture digital protective relays and related products and services for electrical power systems.

Dave Whitehead is the chief executive officer at Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. (SEL), overseeing global operations in research and development, sales and customer service, engineering services, manufacturing, human resources, marketing and communications, and business. He is responsible for translating the company’s executive vision into effective corporate strategies that prioritize quality, innovation, service, and growth.

Dave serves on the board of directors for both SEL and Veracity Industrial Networks, is a senior member of IEEE, and is the past chair of the IEEE Power & Energy Society Substations C6 committee. He is a registered professional engineer credited with over 73 patents and holds a bachelor of science degree, a master of science, and an honorary doctorate in electrical engineering. Dave has been with SEL for over 25 years.

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