

## The IEEE Herman Halperin Electric Transmission and Distribution Award

The IEEE Herman Halperin Electric Transmission and Distribution Award was established in 1986 through an agreement between Herman Halperin and the Board of Directors of the IEEE. From 1959 through 1986, the award for outstanding contributions to the field of electric transmission and distribution was named the William M. Habirshaw Award. Herman Halperin was a recipient of the Habirshaw Award in 1962. Mr. Halperin had a distinguished career with the Commonwealth Edison Company over a period of 40 years. He was particularly noted for his pioneering contributions to the design and operation of electric plant facilities and power cable systems.

The award is sponsored by the Robert and Ruth Halperin Foundation, in memory of the late Herman & Edna Halperin, and the IEEE Power & Energy Society. It is presented to an individual or team of up to three in number for outstanding contributions to electric transmission and distribution. The award consists of a certificate and honorarium.

In the evaluation process, the following criteria are considered: technological importance, successful application, originality, leadership, publications, and the quality of the nomination. The nomination deadline is 31 January.

For additional information on IEEE Technical Field Awards and Medals, to view complete lists of past recipients or to nominate a colleague or associate for IEEE Technical Field Awards and Medals, please visit <http://www.ieee.org/awards>.

### Past Recipients:

- 2010 Carlos Katz
- 2009 Carson W. Taylor
- 2008 Robert C. Degeneff
- 2007 Eric B. Forsyth
- 2006 Anjan Bose
- 2005 James J. Burke
- 2004 Andrew John Eriksson
- 2003 P. Sarma Maruvada
- 2002 John J. Vithayathil
- 2001 Arthur C. Westrom
- 2000 Arun Gajanan Phadke
- 1999 Charles L. Wagner
- 1998 Vincent Thomas Morgan
- 1997 B. Don Russell
- 1996 Farouk A. M. Rizk
- 1995 Vernon Lee Chartier
- 1994 Abdel-Aziz A. Fouad
- 1993 Mat Darveniza
- 1992 Andrew R. Hileman
- 1991 John G. Anderson
- 1990 John A. Casazza
- 1989 - John J. Dougherty
- 1988 Luigi Paris
- 1987 Robert F. Lawrence

---

---

# The IEEE Herman Halperin Electric Transmission and Distribution Award

**JOHN H. BRUNKE**  
2011 Recipient

*For leadership in the development of advanced  
high-voltage equipment technology,  
application and standardization*

**John H. Brunke's** pioneering work on high-voltage surge control technology has found widespread use in reducing stresses on the power grid.

During the 1970s, Dr. Brunke was one of the first engineers to design, install and test a high-voltage switching scheme using "controlled closing" to energize 230-kV shunt capacitor banks. Controlled switching is the switching on/off of high-voltage equipment and lines at a precise instant when the transient generated by the switching is reduced or eliminated.



This improves power quality and reliability while lowering equipment costs. Projects coordinated while at the Bonneville Power Administration concerning staged systems and fault testing have provided important models for identifying problems and solutions for high-voltage systems. As chair of the IEEE and CIGRE (International Council on Large Electric Systems) committees responsible for switchgear technology, Dr. Brunke has provided industry with important standards information and fostered cooperation between the two organizations. An IEEE Fellow, Dr. Brunke is currently a consulting engineer.

---

---