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In Brief: VERGE is a global event series focusing on the convergence of energy, information, building and transportation technologies, and the opportunities it brings to business, the environment and society. Simply stated: How technology accelerates sustainability solutions.

VERGE events are held in North America, South America and Europe, and are attended by leaders from corporations, startups, cities, nonprofits, public policy and academia. The flagship event is an annual four-day event in San Francisco.

Where and When: VERGE 2014 will be October 27-30, at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco.

What's Covered: Topics span a range of technologies, trends and memes at the intersection of technology and sustainability: big data, the cloud, smart grid, the Internet of Things, machine-to-machine communications, intelligent buildings, connected vehicles, the future of cities, the sharing economy, decentralized systems and more.

Conference tracks include Distributed Energy Systems, Next-Gen Buildings, Sustainable Mobility, Smarter Supply Chains, Food and Water Systems, and Resilient Cities.

Audience: 1,000-1,200 people, with several thousand more watching online. They represent a mix of Fortune 1000 companies (~ 49% from companies with annual revenue of \$1 billion), tech startups (~15%), and cities (~15%). The balance come from NGOs, trade associations, consultancies, and academe.

Speakers: Mainstage (plenary) speakers have included public officials (governors, mayors); policy makers (chairman of FERC, director of APRA-E, head of procurement at GSA, head of facilities at DoD); corporate execs (from a wide range of companies); thought leaders (RMI's Amory Lovins, author Paul Hawken, Internet pioneer Tim O'Reilly, Pentagon strategist Mark Mykleby); and visionary entrepreneurs (Steve Case of AOL and Zipcar, Tony Hsieh of Zappos, Lyndon Rive of SolarCity).

Speakers at 2013 VERGE events included executives from dozens of companies, including Accenture, Adobe, Apple, AT&T, Bloom Energy, BNSF Railway, CBRE, Dassault Systemes, Dell, Disney, Eaton, eBay, EMC, EPRI, Ford, GE, General Motors, Google, Harvard Business School, IBM, Jones Lang LaSalle, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MGM Resorts, National Grid, Nest Labs, NRG Energy, PG&E, Raytheon, Schneider Electric, Shell, Solar City, and Sprint.

Sponsors: Major sponsors include Dell, Dow, GM, Johnson Controls, Jones Lang Lasalle, Microsoft, Philips, Schneider Electric, Shell and Steelcase.

Partners: Dozens of associations and media companies, including Alliance to Save Energy, BSR, Carbon Disclosure Project, Cleantech Open, Code for America, Environmental Defense Fund, Greentech Media, ICLEI, Institute for Sustainable Communities, MIT Sloan Management Review, Smart Grid News, Sustainability Roundtable, U.S. Green Building Council and the World Business Council on Sustainable Development.