

## Recapping the 2022 MEP Innovation Conference

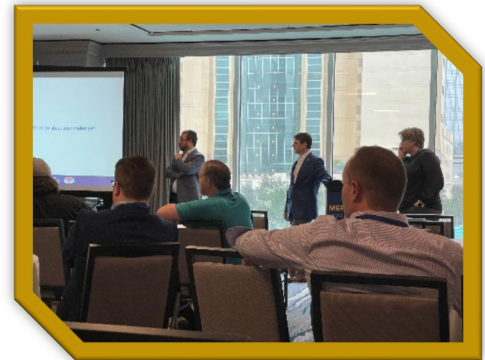
From January 24–26, members from the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), the Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA), and the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association (SMACNA) came together for the inaugural 2022 MEP Innovation Conference in Tampa, Florida.

The event hosted nearly 50 educational and general sessions, ranging from individual speakers to extensive panels and roundtables, giving attendees the opportunity to hear perspectives from all trades. Educational sessions were primarily led by contractors and provided real-world case studies of how new and innovative software, tools, and technology are changing the industry.



Jeffrey Fuentes, Executive Vice President at Aurora Electric, shares his viewpoint from both an attendee and speaker point of view, stating, “the different topics discussed over the educational workshops are very new and futuristic...it’s something that we need to learn to keep in our minds because that’s where the industry is going” adding that “the speakers and their passion to share with others about what they’re doing is so unique and something that I want to implement in my life.”

In addition to amazing educational experiences, the MEP Innovation Conference provided opportunities for members to network with peers from across multiple trades to learn more about their practices and advances in the industry. Jared Christman, VDC Manager at Big State



Electric and recipient of the first-ever NECA MEP Innovator of the Year Award, reflects on his experience stating, “just getting around everyone and listening to the common problems we have, we realize that we are not that far apart from one another” going on to say that “innovation is key across all trades. The technology that is up and

coming is *exciting*, and the way we're going to use it across all trades – the M, the E, and the P...it's going to change construction.”

Not only did the trades come together to share insights and experiences, but they also competed against one another in a vivacious game of Family Feud, sponsored by DADO. During the conference, attendees were surveyed and teams from each industry group competed against each other to win prizes, with our own electrical team, The Sparkys, winning it all.



Plans are already underway for the 2023 MEP Innovation Conference, and further education is in the works to bridge the gap between conferences. Many of the sessions from the 2022 conference were recorded and will be available for attendees and the larger NECA community.

If you would like to learn more about the MEP Innovation Conference, please email [innovation@necanet.org](mailto:innovation@necanet.org).