NAPS has been a very active symposium since its inception in 1969 as the Midwest Power Symposium and later renamed as North American Power Symposium in 1986. NAPS has been held annually at one of the universities in North America to provide an international open forum for participants from academia and industry. Student participation is the gem of this symposium leading to graduate and undergraduate student interactions with their peers in other universities as well as exchange of knowledge with faculty and industry. Since students are at the core of any research, their development and interaction enhances opportunities for novel research ideas, which is encouraged in the symposium through the student paper competition awards.

The following criteria will be used for selection:
- Sustained participation in previous NAPS
- Time since last hosting NAPS
- Plans to maintain low registration costs
- Plans to support student participation
- Evidence of long-term interest in power
- Need for exposure
- Quality of facilities

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