Texas A&M Energy Institute

Distinguished Lectures in Energy

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY Energy Institute | TEES

Who Pays, Who Protects and Who Proves It? A Product Leader's Perspective on AI Infrastructure

Dr. Prerna Jain

Global Director of Portfolio & Commercial Strategy

Honeywell



November 18, 2026

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. CST (UTC -6:00)

Frederick E. Giesecke Engineering Research Building Third Floor Conference Room and Zoom

Abstract

The expansion of AI and data centers creates interdependent challenges across electricity supply, cooling, controls, and cybersecurity. Addressing these challenges requires coordinated decisions about physical resilience, infrastructure costs, and the evidence needed to support operational and investment commitments.

This lecture presents a product-management framework connecting three questions: how should AI infrastructure withstand disturbances and recover safely; how should capacity, flexibility, and stranded-asset risks be allocated; and what evidence should justify increasing operational autonomy? Drawing on industrial practice, the discussion examines measurable requirements, lifecycle accountability, and the distinction between demonstrated performance and projected benefits.

The lecture concludes with interdisciplinary research opportunities in demand uncertainty, resilience valuation, load-flexibility measurement, and assurance for AI-enabled control. It explores how shared testbeds, reproducible benchmarks, and decision-ready methods can connect academic research with utility, data-center, and industrial operating decisions.

Register Now

Biography

Prerna Jain is Global Director of Portfolio & Commercial Strategy at Honeywell, where she leads portfolio strategy and commercial governance of digital-product initiatives for the energy and process industries. With more than 18 years of experience across upstream oil and gas, LNG process safety, industrial AI, and SaaS solutions, she has held leadership roles at Honeywell, ExxonMobil, Falkonry, Reliance Industries, and the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Her work has delivered measurable commercial and operational impact, including LNG digital twin value creation, enterprise portfolio innovation, and resilience-based process-safety solutions for global energy companies. Prerna was recognized as a Reuters Trailblazing Women in Energy 2026 honoree and named one of Pump & Systems' 10 to Watch in 2024. A proud Aggie, Prerna holds a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M University. An alumna of the Texas A&M Energy Institute and Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center, she has received multiple Texas A&M honors for her servant leadership.