

# SHIELDING THE UTILITIES SECTOR FROM CYBER THREATS

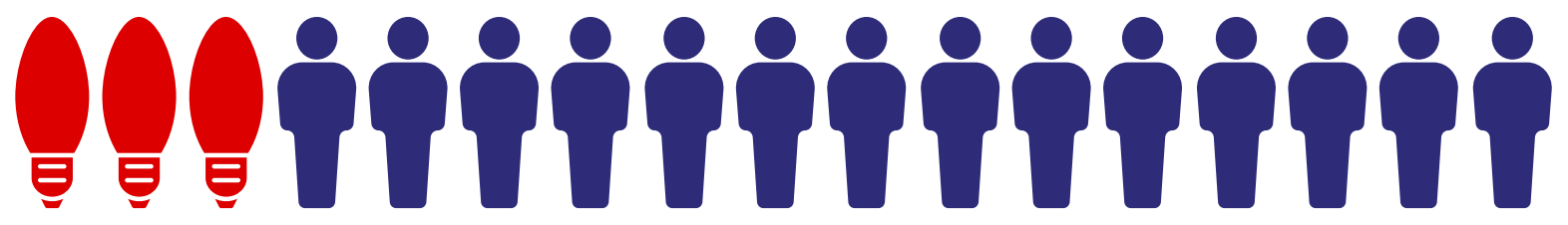
## THE INDUSTRY

The Five Key Segments of the Utilities Sector



The US Energy industry employs **6.8 million people** and accounts for

**9%** of the total US GDP<sup>1</sup>

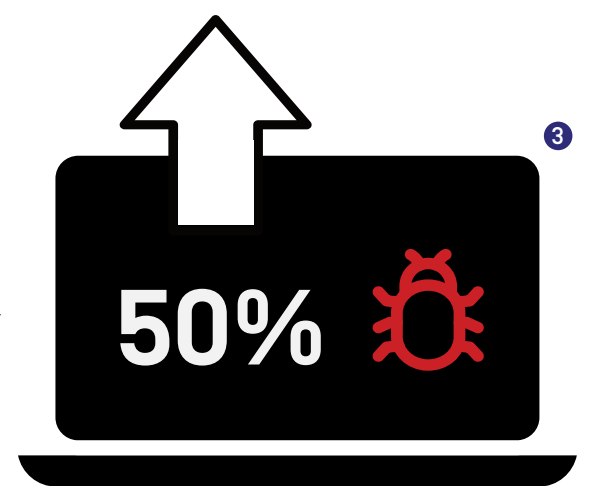


**40%** of new monitoring and control systems in the utility sector are expected to use IoT by 2025<sup>2</sup>



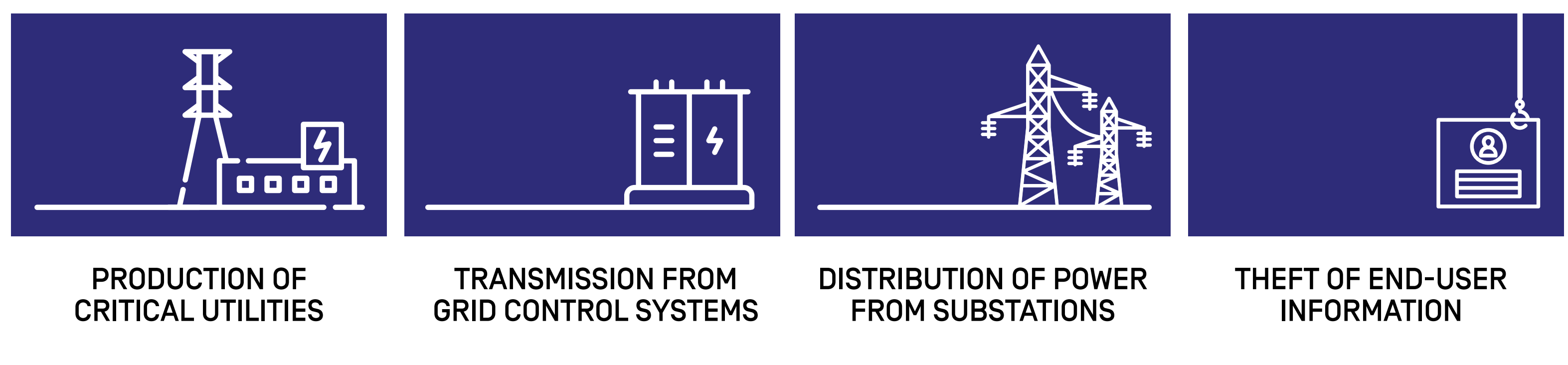
## THE RISKS

Over the last two years, ransomware attacks on utilities have increased by



Over half [55%] of Power industry CISOs don't feel their cyber budgets are sufficient to remediate a severe cyber event<sup>3</sup>

Attacks on the Utilities industry can impact:<sup>4</sup>



## THE IMPACT

**2015**

The first sabotage of a power grid disrupts electricity and water for 230,000 people in western Ukraine<sup>5</sup>

**2017**

Saudi Aramco experiences a site shutdown after hackers damage a power plant's safety controllers<sup>6</sup>

**2020**

The SolarWinds breach compromises around 25% of the country's power utilities<sup>7</sup>

In response, the US government allocated **\$3.5 billion** to improving the cybersecurity of the electric grid in 2021<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://cybersecurityguide.org/industries/energy/>  
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gartner.com/en/industries/energy-utilities>  
<sup>3</sup> <https://www.power-grid.com/td/how-utilities-can-protect-themselves-against-malicious-cyber-attacks/#ref>  
<sup>4</sup> <https://www.pwc.com/us/en/issues/cybersecurity/power-sector-cybersecurity.pdf>  
<sup>5</sup> <https://www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/risk-and-resilience/our-insights/the-energy-sector-threat-how-to-address-cybersecurity-vulnerabilities>  
<sup>6</sup> <https://www.cfr.org/cyber-operations/compromise-power-grid-eastern-ukraine>  
<sup>7</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/sites/bauravsharma/2019/09/26/saudi-aramco-doubles-down-on-cybersecurity-amid-rising-threats/?sh=3937e89c7f65>  
<sup>8</sup> <https://www.utilitydive.com/news/nerc-finding-23-of-utilities-exposed-to-solarwinds-hack-indicates-growing-83944/>  
<sup>9</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/03/12/cybersecurity-202-democrats-new-infrastructure-bill-highlights-cybersecurity-concerns/>