



MeetingPreview



AICHE BRINGS PROCESS SAFETY TO OFFSHORE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

Process safety, alternative energy, and the state of the offshore industry since the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill will be among the topics explored by thousands of energy industry professionals at the 2012 Offshore Technology Conference. OTC2012 (www.otcnet.org/2012) will be held Apr. 29 through May 3 at Reliant Park in Houston, TX.

Co-sponsored by AIChE, OTC2012 will deliver a comprehensive picture of today's offshore oil and gas industry — with insights provided by an array of international experts who will discuss emerging technologies; major projects; health, safety, and environment; and the changing regulatory landscape. AIChE is contributing sessions to this year's conference that will interest chemical engineers as well as anyone involved in the fields of energy development, drilling, oil and gas exploration and production, and environmental protection.

Last year's OTC attracted more than 78,000 people from 114 countries, along with more than 2,500 international exhibitors. The following pages highlight a few of the many offerings that will be on display at this year's OTC.

The demonstrations at the massive exhibition alone can provide enough learning and business opportunities to fill many attendees' schedules. Yet OTC2012 will also offer 56 sessions exploring the technologies and innovative approaches that are being used to produce oil and gas in deep waters and harsh offshore environments. Complementing the more than 300 technical papers will be panel discussions and 22 topical breakfasts and luncheons featuring keynote talks from industry leaders.

New and improved

Kicking things off on Sunday, Apr. 29, is the Annual OTC Dinner. This event provides an opportunity for attendees to network with colleagues,

and will raise funds for Engineers Without Borders.

OTC2012 features breakfast and luncheon presentations by representatives from major companies — including ExxonMobil, Total, Shell, China National Offshore Oil Corp., and Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. Speakers will share their views on future industry directions, project management, risk management, and critical issues. Emerging markets in Norway, Israel, the U.K., China, and Africa will also be discussed.

Several events will address the aftermath of the 2010 Macondo oil spill. On Tuesday, May 1, Martin Vos, a vice president at Shell, will give a luncheon talk on process safety development at Shell's deepwater wells. Also on May 1, a breakfast is being devoted to "Oil Spills, Ethics, and Society." Other events include a session entitled "Enhancing Industry Spill Response Capabilities" and panel discussions on risk management and improving the operational integrity of offshore operations.

As technology advances, OTC programmers regularly revisit past conference topics. In 2012, some of the topics receiving a fresh look include deepwater moorings; drilling and well completions; soil mechanics; pipelines; meteorology and oceanography; ocean mining; and inspection and maintenance. Chemical engineers will benefit from new information on flow assurance.

Other sessions will cover topics that have not been fully explored at past OTCs, including global liquefied natural gas (LNG); innovative floating production, storage, and offloading; drilling over 15,000 psi; deepwater cementing; and new standards for platforms.

OTC2012 also explores new developments in offshore wind energy and local power generation for offshore facilities, including a panel discussion on alternative energy sources.

A highlight of recent conferences, the OTC will again present its Next Wave program, which helps young professionals aged 35 and under to develop technical and leadership skills. The Monday, Apr. 30, session addresses the challenges and responsibilities of young professionals entering the oil and gas community, and the career outlook for the decades ahead.

AIChE-sponsored events

AIChE programmers are contributing several sessions to OTC2012:

Roles of Independents Offshore Panel Discussion — Independent producers hold 81% of the production leases in the offshore Gulf of Mexico. This panel on Wednesday, Mar. 2, examines the outlook for independents' growth, including operational, regulatory, and policy issues that will shape future production in the Gulf.

Topsides Technology — This Wednesday afternoon session covers new technology for treating produced water; advances in deep-water production monitoring; technology for enhancing oil production while reducing offshore greenhouse gas emissions; topside best practices; and more.

Process Safety in the Offshore Industry — Organized by AIChE's Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS), this session on Thursday, May 3, deals with techniques for identifying, managing, monitoring, and measuring process safety, including lessons learned from applying safety and environmental management systems in the Gulf of Mexico. Another presentation addresses how educators can develop process safety capabilities in new college graduates.

AIChE members are eligible for reduced rates on OTC registration. Members should also visit the AIChE booth onsite. For more information on OTC2012, go to www.otcnet.org/2012.