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## Letter from the President and President-Elect

# Addressing Today's Energy Challenges



**F**or the greater part of the 20th century, chemical engineers have made significant contributions to the development, design, and efficient use of energy. Through conferences, Divisions and Forums, and member activities, AIChE continues to address our energy challenges through the advancement, transfer, and application of technology.

Today, we are faced with even greater energy challenges. They impact our personal and professional lives as well as the chemical industry. Many of you have expressed a desire for AIChE to take on special activities, which could elevate, extend, and enhance our current programs in energy. The AIChE Executive Committee has launched two initiatives to better define our path:

(1) A high level Commission on Energy Challenges, chaired by Dr. Amos Avidan, Principal VP of Bechtel Corp., will explore AIChE's role, as a volunteer driven, professional society, in addressing the complex technical, sociological, economic and sustainability issues of energy production, usage, and conservation. To learn more about the commission, go to <http://aiche.org/new/energy/commission.htm>.

(2) A special Forum on Energy Challenges will allow members to address the Commission and suggest programs and activities. Co-hosted by the AIChE Fellows and the Energy Commission, the Forum will be held Sunday, October 30, 3:30–5:00 PM at the 2005 Annual Meeting in Cincinnati, OH. Following brief introductory remarks from the Commission, attendees will have the opportunity to share their thoughts on AIChE's role in energy policy and technology. For more information, visit <http://aiche.org/new/energy/forum.htm>.

Your voice and expertise are critical to these initiatives. On behalf of the AIChE Board of Directors, we extend a personal invitation to you and your colleagues to join our efforts. We especially invite you to join us at the special Forum, to express your thoughts and suggestions on this timely and critical issue facing chemical engineers.

We also encourage you to visit [www.aiche.org/new/energy](http://www.aiche.org/new/energy) and contact us directly at [energy@aiche.org](mailto:energy@aiche.org).

Jeffery J. Siirola,  
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John C. Chen,  
President-Elect

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