





## Scenes from the 2007 ChemE-Car Competition

2007 Annual Meeting • Salt Lake City, UT • Nov. 4-9



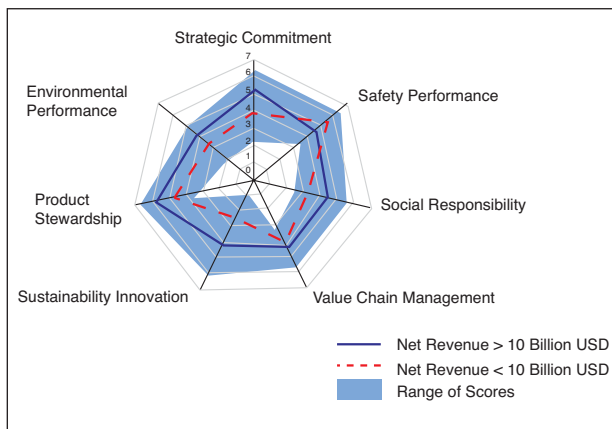
## AIChE Sustainability Index: Effects of Company Size

The AIChE Sustainability Index (SI), rolled-out in the November 2007 issue of *CEP*, assesses sustainability of the chemical industry along factors fundamental to the industry. In this issue, we examine the effect of company size, based on net revenue, on the perceived sustainability performance of a company.

The figure at the right shows the range of scores for the eleven chemical companies included in the inaugural analysis\*, as well as average scores for those with net revenue greater than and less than \$10 billion.

Results from the analysis reflect that companies with net revenues in excess of \$10 billion lead in most of the categories examined. With greater stakeholder pressure, most of these companies have committed themselves to aggressive sustainability goals and targets, and produce comprehensive sustainability reports — giving them higher scores on the category of Strategic Commitment.

The largest difference between the average scores of companies more than and less than \$10 billion is seen under Sustainability Innovation. Sustainability has become a driver of innovation for most of the larger chemical companies, which focus R&D on solutions that improve their customers' environmental, health and safety, and, in some cases social, performance. Furthermore, these companies also have the most access to and experience in using sustainability tools,



such as sustainability screen and lifecycle assessment, in their R&D and design activities.

The larger companies in the industry also lead on aspects of Environmental Performance and Social Responsibility. These companies, based on self-reported data, have made significant progress in reducing resource use and emissions, in line with the aggressive sustainability goals that many of them have set.

In the Social Responsibility category, while companies of all sizes are actively engaged with communities surrounding their operations and are sensitive to local concerns, the larger firms are more involved in strategic stakeholder-engagement activities designed to address issues around their products' value chains.

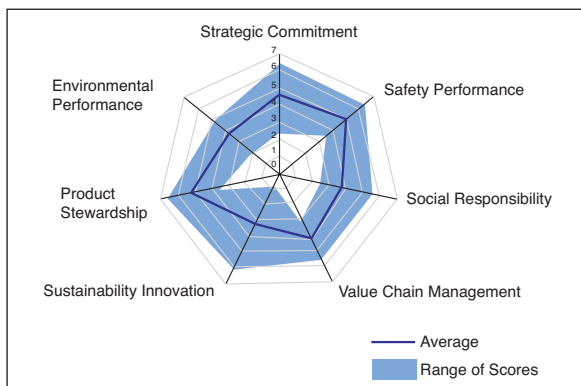
However, larger companies fall short in Safety Performance, lagging behind their smaller counterparts in various workplace and process safety metrics. Companies of all sizes also perform about equally in Value-Chain Management — meeting (but not exceeding) a majority of the Responsible Care requirements for environmental management system and supply-chain management.

The AIChE SI provides practical benchmarks along a number of well-defined metrics. Individual companies can subscribe to the indexing service to learn how they compare to their peers by contacting [ifs@aiche.org](mailto:ifs@aiche.org).

\*The initial analysis included: Air Products, Akzo Nobel, Ashland, BASF, Celanese, Dow, DuPont, Eastman, Lyondell, Praxair, and Rohm & Haas.

### CORRECTION

In the Nov. 2007 issue of *CEP*, there was a translational error in the AIChE SI that resulted in errors in the spider web chart. Below is the correct version.



### BOSTON LOCAL SECTION AWARDED PROGRAM PLANNING GRANT

The Local Sections Committee has awarded the 2007 Program Planning Grant to the Boston Local Section for its work hosting the 2007 Leadership Development Conference. The grant provides funding to help support section activities designed to increase local section membership participation. The Boston members worked closely together for over a year to help plan, promote and provide content for the meeting. It was truly a group effort that not only generated energy and increased participation for the Boston Local section, but also for the 100 Institute leaders attending the meeting as well.

For information and applications please contact the Volunteer and Membership Activities Department at [vma@aiche.org](mailto:vma@aiche.org).



## The Year Ahead

### A Message from Dale Keairns — 2008 AIChE President

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your president for 2008.

First I want to thank the many members volunteering their time and energy, and the AIChE staff for their work that has resulted in continued improvement of our finances and a second year of positive membership growth. New initiatives focused on serving students and young professionals, enhancing our ability to speak to the energy challenge, and expanding our international presence continue to be priorities for the Institute.

Larry Evans, our 2007 president, will continue to lead the strategy project that was initiated last year, and he is scheduled to give a presentation about it at the New Orleans Spring National Meeting (Apr. 6–10). It is important that this be seen as a living plan — a continuous activity. We have a need to increase our flexibility, to respond to new opportunities, to meet new challenges in real time. This is not always comfortable. Lucretia Mott, a women's rights leader and abolitionist in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, put it well when she said, "Any great change must expect opposition because it shakes the very foundation of privilege."

Since we will be celebrating our centennial this year, it is important to see the year ahead in the context of our history. In Oct. 1905, Richard Meade, editor of *The Chemical Engineer*, asked the question: "Why not The American Society of Chemical Engineers?" The discussion following his query led to the formation of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers in June of 1908 in Philadelphia, where we will be holding our 2008 Annual Meeting (Nov. 16–21). The core objectives articulated at that meeting nearly a century ago remain core objectives that are reflected in our current goals.

It is instructive to understand the views of the founders and relate them

to the challenges we face today. The following words were written by Meade in his first issue of *The Chemical Engineer* in Nov. 1904:

"As modern technology becomes more specialized it becomes more and more interdependent. It is hard to tell where mechanical engineering ends and civil engineering begins or where the line of demarcation is drawn between mining and metallurgy, or where lie the boundaries separating metallurgy and chemistry."

The essence of his message is applicable today — the primary difference being that the boundaries have changed:

- The borders between all engineering disciplines and sciences are no longer boundaries.
- The borders between countries are no longer boundaries.
- The borders between people of different cultures are no longer boundaries.

Chemical engineers now work and live across these borders. Our task is to respond to these changes — to enable professional and personal growth, as well as to serve society as we move into the next century.

Let us consider just one of these boundaries — being inclusive. The founders of AIChE were men of European descent, reflecting the culture and business of their time. These boundaries have clearly changed. We are challenged to work on how to engage and respect people from around the world that takes us beyond their gender, race, sexual orientation or physical challenges. Innovation and leadership do not recognize these boundaries. To succeed, corporations need workers who can speak other languages and relate to other cultures.

The original membership was exclu-

sive and limited to those older than 30 years of age. While this age group remains vital today, we have an objective for students and young professionals to be an essential part of our leadership — we are making good progress through the Student Membership Initiative launched during 2007. However, more work needs to be done to realize this goal.

There is another important age group. The culture of being older has fundamentally changed. Many AARP members are no longer retired. Seasoned professionals who have completed a traditional work career represent over 20% of chemical engineers. These colleagues are a valued resource and many have interest in taking on new ventures; they continue to serve our profession.

There are important implications of this age diversity. Our diversity results in our need to respond to a spectrum of member interests — serving some who are living the 9–5 life, and those living on customized time, such as students who are racing faster than some of us seasoned folk. We will need new models of engagement.

Inclusion also involves recognizing that the profession includes diverse technologies and industries. Continually evaluating the effectiveness of our current models to serve members and society is important. For example, the Society for Biological Engineering serves many members who are non-chemical engineers.

We will consider other boundaries, such as grand challenges and communication, in future issues. The Institute, as organized by those gathered a century ago, was different from today. Tomorrow's Institute will also be different from today's Institute. Our goals remain to serve members and society.

I look forward to working with you.

## In Memoriam — Roy Siskin

Roy A. Siskin, 89, died on Oct. 1, 2007 in Alexandria, VA, where he had most recently resided. He worked for over 40 years for the American Gas Association (AGA), receiving the highest award his division bestowed — the Gold Award of Merit — which was given only one other time in the entire history of the Operating Section.

Siskin started with AGA in 1946 in the research department of the Association's laboratories in Cleveland, OH, and was then advanced to the headquarter's research department. He next worked in AGA's Utilization Bureau as manager of the Department of Operating and Engineering Services and then director of Operating and Engineering Services. He managed all of the research and utilization conferences and later the distribution and transmission conferences.

Siskin served as president of the The Society for the



Advancement of Food Service Research and was a member of the: American Institute of Chemical Engineers; Gas Appliance Engineers Society; American Ceramic Society; Air Pollution Control Association; and Combustion Institute.

He was a graduate of Case Institute of Technology and a captain in the U.S. Army Air Corps, serving in the China Burma India Theater in World War II. Siskin was buried in Arlington National Cemetery on Dec. 31, 2007,

with full military honors. He is survived by: his wife of 61 years, Dorothy Leichtman Siskin; his daughter Marlene Miller and her husband Marshall; his son Clifford Siskin and his wife Leslie; five grandchildren, Leland and Natalie Miller, Corin Swift and her husband Raf Adams, Nathaniel Swift, and Johanna Siskin and her husband Chris Hahn; and two great-grandchildren, Dylan Swift and Henry Adams.

### JOIN THE AIChE PLANNED GIVING SOCIETY

Become a Founding Member of the AIChE Legacy Society during our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The AIChE Legacy Society was established to honor those who have graciously included AIChE in their long-term plans through a bequest provision, life-income gift, or other deferred-giving arrangement. It celebrates and promotes the tradition of generosity and personal commitment to furthering the goals of the profession.

If you join this special group of visionaries by including AIChE in your will or estate plans by December 31, 2008, you will be accorded a special "Founding Member" status. Gifts can also provide advantages such as a lifetime income to the donor or others and may offer certain tax benefits.

To learn more about ways to include AIChE in your plans, visit [www.aiche.planyourlegacy.org/heritage.php](http://www.aiche.planyourlegacy.org/heritage.php) or contact Cathy Diana, director, AIChE Foundation, at 212-591-7230 or [cathd@aiiche.org](mailto:cathd@aiiche.org).

### Are you in the news?

Tell *CEP* about your recent award or latest research. Or share information on innovative new programs you think members would like to hear about.

Email us at [cepedit@aiiche.org](mailto:cepedit@aiiche.org).

### OBITUARIES

Kenneth E. Ross, 75, Dickinson, TX

Roy A. Siskin, 89, Alexandria, VA

William B. Tarpley, 90, Coatesville, PA

### AIChE Conference Calendar

For information and registration details, visit [www.aiche.org/conferences](http://www.aiche.org/conferences) or call Customer Service at 1-800-242-4363 or 1-203-702-7660 (outside the U.S.)

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> SPE/AIChE Joint Workshop:**  
**Practical Strategies for Managing CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions — Today, Not Tomorrow**  
February 25–26, 2008 • The Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn and Spa • Sonoma, CA

**2008 AIChE & ACS Spring National Meetings and Exhibitions**  
April 6–10, 2008 • Ernest N. Morial Convention Center • New Orleans, LA

**2008 Process Development Symposium:**  
**Chemical Product Engineering — The Third Paradigm**  
June 22–25, 2008 • Jiminy Peak Resort • The Berkshires, Hancock, MA

**SBE's 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Bioengineering and Nanotechnology**  
July 22–24, 2008 • University College, Dublin and Stillorgan Park Hotel • Dublin, Ireland

**2008 Ammonia Conference**  
September 7–11, 2008 • Hyatt Regency • San Antonio, TX

**2008 AIChE Annual Meeting**  
November 16–21, 2008 • Philadelphia Marriott & Pennsylvania Convention Center • Philadelphia, PA