



## AICHE HELPS TO ENERGIZE 2011 OFFSHORE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

With the causes and impacts of last year's oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico to be a major topic of discussion, the learning opportunities at the 2011 Offshore Technology Conference (OTC.11; [www.otcnet.org/2011](http://www.otcnet.org/2011)) will surely be more valuable than ever before. AIChE will play a key role at OTC.11 when it co-sponsors the May 2–5 event at Reliant Park in Houston, TX. The theme — Diversity in Energy, People, and Resources — underscores the all-encompassing scope of this industry-spanning tradeshow.

Industry professionals in the fields of drilling, exploration, production, and environmental protection gather at the OTC to demonstrate technology and discuss the latest developments in oil-and-gas exploration and production at a vast collection of exhibits and technical sessions. Last year's OTC attracted nearly 73,000 people from 120 countries — along with some 2,400 exhibitors from around the world.

The enormous exhibition alone will provide enough learning and networking opportunities to fill many attendees' schedules. Yet OTC.11 will also offer more than 300 technical papers devoted to the technologies and innovative approaches that are being used to produce oil and gas in deep waters and harsh offshore environments. Complementing these sessions will be topical luncheons and breakfasts — offering expert views on emerging markets, new technologies, project management, geopolitics, and the latest news on critical industry issues.

### New and special programs

The comprehensive technical program covers a wide range of offshore issues, from technology to project management to health, safety, and the environment. Some of this



▲ A view of the "OTC Parkway" exhibit area, outside the Reliant Center at last year's OTC. Photo by Barchfeld Photography.

year's highest-profile sessions will be devoted to the impacts of oil and gas production in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico following the Macondo oil spill — with panelists from industry and government discussing regulations, drilling safety, energy development, and spill response for future projects. Many other sessions explore topics that have not been fully addressed at recent OTCs, including enhanced oil recovery, marine archaeology, subsea equipment, computational fluid dynamics, and shale gas developments. On the "green energy" front, OTC.11 will highlight new developments in wind energy and carbon sequestration, and a panel will discuss the advantages and limitations of alternative energy sources.

On Sunday, May 1, the OTC will inaugurate a new signature event: an Annual OTC Dinner. This fundraiser will allow attendees to network with colleagues and industry leaders from around the world, and will serve as the venue for the OTC's Distinguished Achievement Awards. On Monday, May 2, the OTC will present awards for innovative technology through its Spotlight on New Technology program.

Another new attraction is a University R&D Showcase, where universities will share their current and planned R&D projects of relevance to offshore technology.

The Next Wave program is aimed

at helping young professionals aged 35 and under to build technical and leadership skills. On Monday, May 2, "Oil and Gas 2.0: Taking the Industry to the Next Level" will delve into the factors and changes that affect the industry, and how to blaze a career path in the dynamic oil and gas field.

OTC.11 will also feature an "education day" on Thursday, May 5 — where high school students and science teachers can see the technology on display.

### AIChE-sponsored highlights

As one of the dozen major technical societies co-sponsoring the OTC, AIChE programmers are contributing a variety of technical sessions, panels, and other presentations. These include:

- HSE (Health, Safety and the Environment) — This Monday, May 2, session will cover: third-party testing of critical safety-system software; HSE cultures in joint-venture companies; the application of nuclear industry safety- and performance-management concepts to offshore operations; continuous greenhouse gas emission surveillance; and more.

- Global Gas Markets — The New Reality: Is it Shale *and* LNG, or Shale *or* LNG? — At this panel discussion on Wednesday, May 4, industry leaders will explore the topic of shale gas and its impact on the global market and supply balance.

- Topsides Technology — This Thursday, May 5, session will focus on technology advancements to improve offshore project development, fabrication, and production.

AIChE members are eligible for reduced rates on OTC registration and proceedings. Members should also visit the AIChE booth onsite. For more information on OTC.11, see [www.otcnet.org/2011](http://www.otcnet.org/2011).

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