



NEWS RELEASE

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SPE Offshore Europe 2009 breaks all records

A record-breaking week at SPE Offshore Europe has seen the international event raise the bar even higher with record crowds and the largest ever exhibition, alongside a conference which featured many of the world's leading energy industry and political figures.

The premier upstream oil and gas event drew more than 49,000 attendees, 20% more than the previously record-breaking 2007 conference and exhibition, and featured more than 1,500 exhibiting companies from around the world. This included 330 companies participating at the show for the first time. The biennial event was held in Aberdeen, Scotland from September 8-11th.

The OE 2009 Chairman, Thomas Thune Andersen, commented: "I really think that we have achieved what we wanted to do at the conference, which was to make sure that it was relevant, wide ranging and international. The theme for this event was *'Energy at a Crossroads: Making Choices'*, and there were many excellent discussions and debates throughout the week, both in the plenary sessions and the technical programme. The discussions always being balanced, realistic and meaningful, with the main auditorium and many of the conference rooms often packed out. What I have particularly noted is that, as we had hoped right at the start of this process, the debate around the environment and the climate has been in everyone's discussions. A recognition that the industry must engage ourselves, and focus on minimising our environmental footprint, while continuing to provide energy to all. An extremely important thing is also that it has not been a discussion about oil and gas or alternatives but oil and gas and alternatives. Only if we drive both will we take things forward.

"It's extremely pleasing to see that the industry is not only aware of the immediate financial challenges it faces but also is definitely looking at the medium and long term situation. I must also praise the event organisers, the organising committee who have done an outstanding job, and the city of Aberdeen for its outstanding hospitality."

Offshore Europe the leading international event

The event is organised by The Offshore Europe Partnership, a joint venture between Reed Exhibitions Ltd. and the Society of Petroleum Engineers.

Justin Tadman, Divisional Managing Director of Reed Exhibitions Ltd. and Co-Chairman of the Offshore Europe Partnership, said: "It was most encouraging to see so many packed aisles and stands at what was the largest exhibition in the event's history, with so many new companies participating, and to get such good feedback on how much business was being done. The attendance figure set a new all-time record and it featured a very strong international representation."

Leo Roodhart, 2009 SPE President and Co-Chairman of the Offshore Europe Partnership, added: "The Offshore Europe Conference and Exhibition proved to be the best ever and will be difficult to beat in the years to come. It proves again that, if you offer quality, people will appreciate this and come to what you have to offer, even in what is a difficult time for the oil and gas industry. The record attendance at this year's event proved that there is still great value in conferences and exhibitions such as this if they are well organised, and this event was exceptionally well organised. Also the quality of the technical conference was exceptional and I am delighted to have been able to be a part of this Offshore Europe during my time as SPE President."

He added that the show's success was a "clear reflection" of the oil and gas industry's very strong appetite to come together and share ideas and knowledge, learn about new and emerging technologies, and network. "SPE Offshore Europe remains a prime vehicle for players to come together to discuss key issues and technologies facing the upstream industry, both in the conference, on the exhibition floor, and at the many social events hosted throughout the week in and around the highly hospitable city of Aberdeen," he said.

This year's exhibition was the largest in the event's history, expanding 11% compared to the last show in 2007 with an entire new hall and 13 international pavillions.

Leading international speakers included Connie Hedegaard, Denmark's Minister of Climate and Energy; the UK's Energy Minister Lord Hunt; Schlumberger's Chairman & Chief Executive Officer Andrew Gould; John Manzoni, President & CEO of Talisman Energy Inc.; and Christophe de Margerie, Chairman and CEO at Total E&P.

Minister Hedegaard stressed the "massive opportunities" the oil and gas industry has to capitalise on the world's transition to a low carbon economy, and that the industry's technical know-how and engineering skills should be harnessed to win a share of new offshore renewables markets." She added that the twin challenges of climate change and energy security will dominate the global political agenda for years to come.

Visit www.offshore-europe.co.uk for further details.

OE 2009 FACT FILE & BACKGROUND

- The biennial SPE Offshore Europe conference is the largest upstream oil & gas event outside North America.
- The next SPE Offshore Europe will be from 6-8th September, 2011 in Aberdeen.

Notes For Editors:

Reed Exhibitions is the world's leading organiser of exhibitions and conferences. Reed events are held in 38 countries throughout the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and Asia Pacific, and organised by 33 fully staffed offices. (See www.reedexpo.com for more details)

Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) is a not-for-profit professional association whose members are engaged in energy resources development and production. SPE serves 88,000-plus members from more than 118 countries worldwide. (See www.spe.org for more details)

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