

**From:** Gahr, Jason Z  
**Sent:** Tue, 29 Jul 2025 04:10:37 +0000  
**To:** Wright, Chris; Lamanna, Isabelle  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 2026 IADC/SPE Conference - 17 March 2026  
**Attachments:** 2026 SPE-IADC Conference Details.docx

Chris – Hope all is well. I am enjoying watching your press releases and media interviews! I am part of the team planning the 2026 IADC/SPE conference and we would be thrilled to have you as our keynote speaker. Details of the conference are below and further context is included in the attached document.

**Event:** 2026 IADC/SPE Drilling Conference  
**Where:** Galveston Convention Center, Galveston, Tx  
**When:** 17-19 March 2026  
**Who:** 2024 Attendance ~ 960 persons from US, Norway, Canada, UK, Brazil  
**Keynote Timing:** Tuesday, 17 March 2026, 9:20AM (30 minutes including Q&A)

Conference themes are

1. **Balancing AI and Human Expertise. Advancing Advocacy. Empowering Society**
2. **Intelligent Energy: Engineering Impact Through Innovation and**

Thank you for considering Chris and look forward to hearing you speak!

Regards,

Jason Gahr  
 Operations Manager – Unconventional Wells  
 ExxonMobil

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Chris – thank you very much for considering being our Keynote Speaker. This is a great venue to get folks excited about being part of the energy solution and equipping people in our industry to be educators and advocates for our important industry that Better Human Lives! Below are some details of the event. Looking forward to your response.... And hearing your motivating and genuine insights and a few stories. – Jason

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The themes will be the subject of a moderated Panel session on both the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Balancing AI and Human Expertise. Advancing Advocacy. Empowering Society**

In an era of heightened public scrutiny, the oil and gas industry faces a growing imperative: to communicate its role in delivering reliable, responsible energy more effectively — and more authentically to advance human lives. This panel convenes experts from advertising, marketing, energy education, and other industries that have successfully navigated similar perception challenges to explore strategies for building trust and driving informed dialogue.

Panelists will share insights from industry sectors that, like energy, are essential yet often misunderstood. The session will examine how compelling storytelling, strategic partnerships, and data-driven messaging can be used to reshape how drilling and energy development are viewed by the public, policymakers, and the next generation of talent.

Key topics will include:

- How do we move from defensive communication to proactive, purpose-driven advocacy?
- What branding and outreach strategies have successfully shifted public perception in other sectors?
- How can the industry better engage educators, media, and communities to build long-term support?
- What role do digital platforms and influencers play in modern energy advocacy?

This session aims to equip leaders with actionable tools and fresh perspectives to champion the industry's future — by clearly demonstrating its essential contributions to global progress, innovation, and human well-being.

### **Intelligent Energy: Engineering Impact Through Innovation**

As artificial intelligence (AI) reshapes industries at an unprecedented pace, the energy sector faces a critical challenge — and opportunity — in integrating cutting-edge digital solutions while preserving the irreplaceable value of human expertise. This panel brings together thought leaders from tech giants, management consultants, academia, and human resources to explore how AI is being leveraged in other industries and what lessons can be applied to oil and gas.

Panelists will examine real-world examples of AI leadership outside our sector, identifying scalable practices that align with the technical and safety-critical nature of drilling. The session will focus on how energy organizations can adopt and adapt these innovations while maintaining — and maximizing — the contribution of experienced personnel.

Key questions include:

- How do we design AI systems that enhance, rather than replace, human decision-making? How can we retain and evolve our experienced workforce in the face of automation?
- What strategies will attract a new generation of graduates to a digitally transforming oil & gas industry?
- What role should leadership play in bridging the gap between legacy knowledge and emerging technologies?

By examining both the promise and the pitfalls of rapid AI integration, this session will chart a path forward for our industry leaders committed to building a hybrid intelligence model — one that blends machine learning with human judgment to drive innovation, safety, and sustainability.

### **Demographics Profile from 2024 IADC/SPE Conference**

#### 2024 Attendees - Job Classification:

▪ Staff Engineer/Scientist ▪ Manager ▪ Executive ▪ Sales and Marketing ▪ Research and Development ▪ Business Operations ▪ University Student ▪ Consultant

#### 2024 Attendees - Technical Discipline

▪ Drilling ▪ Management ▪ Data Science and Engineering Analytics ▪ Production & Operations ▪ Completions ▪ Health, Safety and Environment ▪ Projects, Facilities and Construction

#### 2024 Attendees – by Age

- Under 25 6%
- 25 - 35 21%
- 36 - 45 33%
- 46 - 55 24%
- 56 - 65 11%
- Over 65 5%