

NEXT-GEN MARINE-OFFSHORE DEVELOPMENT:

Implementing a Digital Future with
Cutting-edge Technology for Design,
Asset Integrity, Enhanced Safety and
Workforce Empowerment



Retrofit Research
Programme

Optimise performance through retrofit

Evaluate decisions across the
whole vessel to unlock measurable
efficiency and operational gains

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TURN UNCERTAINTY



INTO CONFIDENCE

For the maritime industry, this is more than a moment of change. It's a time for transformation. Never have the decisions it faces been so complex. Nor their consequences ever mattered more. As a trusted voice of the industry, we help decision-makers throughout the maritime world to make purposeful and assured choices. From regulatory compliance, next generation fuels, vessel and operational optimization, to in-depth advice and insight, explore our solutions.

Learn more:
dnv.com/maritime





At-A-Glance

WHO WE ARE

Founded in 1862, ABS is a global leader in providing classification services for marine and offshore assets. Our mission is to serve the public interest as well as the needs of our members and clients by promoting the security of life and property and preserving the natural environment. ABS' commitment to safety, reliability and efficiency is ever-present.

WHAT WE DO

TRUSTED ADVISOR

Today, ABS is working in a rapidly changing business environment where global markets are shaped more frequently by digital technology and data analytics. We are applying advanced technology, digital tools, capabilities and improved core processes to drive safety excellence, greater performance and efficiency, generating greater value for our members and clients. ABS continues to be a trusted advisor and partner, supporting marine and offshore business ventures for both traditional and non-traditional clients.

AGILE, BETTER, STRONGER

Moving quickly and easily, ABS provides solutions that add greater value to our clients, making us stronger every day.

- Surveys during and after construction
- Compliance audits
- Development of standards known as Rules
- Engineering research and development
- Technical plan reviews and design analysis
- ABS CyberSafety™ Program
- Asset Reactivation
- Remote Survey and Audits
- Sustainability and Compliance Services
- Digital Solutions

WHERE WE WORK

NORTH AMERICA REGION

Houston, Texas
Email: ABS-Amer@eagle.org

SOUTH AMERICA REGION

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Email: ABSRio@eagle.org

EUROPE REGION

London, UK
Email: ABS-Eur@eagle.org

AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST REGION

Dubai, UAE
Email: ABSDubai@eagle.org

GREATER CHINA REGION

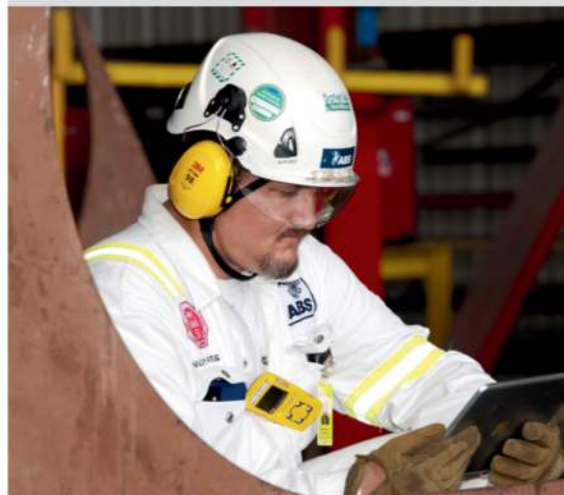
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EMPOWERING COUNTRIES WITH ENERGY SECURITY.

Excelerate Energy, Inc. is a U.S.-based LNG and power infrastructure company that enables countries to access global natural gas supply and enhance energy security through reliable infrastructure. The company delivers services along the LNG to power value chain, including floating regasification terminals, downstream infrastructure development, LNG supply, and power generation.

Excelerate maintains a global presence across key energy markets in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and the Americas.

12

Floating LNG import
terminals in operation

4,000

Ship-to-Ship
Transfers

8,300 Bcf +

Regasified
LNG Deliveries

100 MW

Dual-fired combined
heat and power plant





Advanced systems engineering to meet tomorrow's energy needs

We deliver leading-edge advanced systems engineering for all types of offshore structures in the oil and gas and renewable energy sectors. From concept through decommissioning, we combine deep domain expertise with cutting-edge technology to deliver innovative, independent solutions that solve complex challenges, and drive efficiency in design, delivery and operations.



Oil & Gas



Renewables



Decarbonisation



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Discover the benefits of joining the world's largest global network of marine professionals

- Use your expertise to advance the marine sector
- Stay at the cutting-edge of your profession
- Collaborate with your peers across the world
- Access resources and professional development opportunities to further your career

Programme

NEXT-GEN MARINE-OFFSHORE DEVELOPMENT: Implementing a Digital Future with Cutting-edge Technology for Design, Asset Integrity, Enhanced Safety and Workforce Empowerment

October 7th, 2026 (0800 -1800 hrs.) – followed by a networking reception.

0800 – 0900 Registration and coffee / breakfast

0855 – 1230 Morning Chair: Marco Romero - *Director for Sustainability & Innovation, DNV Maritime - Americas*

0900 –0905 Welcome Address and Recognition of Sponsors & Key Stakeholders Dr. Nimi Abili - *Chairman, IMarEST Houston Branch*

0905 – 0920 Keynote Conference Opening
Claudene Sharp-Patel - *IMarEST President - Elect and Lloyd's Register Technical Director*

0920 – 0940 Keynote Speaker – Next-Generation Offshore Operations: From Digital Experimentation to Trusted Industrial Adoption
Jose Guilherme Moraes – *DNV Regional Offshore Manager, North America*

0940 – 1000 Keynote Speaker – Energy Expansion in the Global Offshore Industry
Cinnamon Edralin – *Americas Research Director, Westwood Global Energy*

1000 – 1020 Keynote Speaker – Accelerating the Techno-Economic Growth of Offshore Operations with Disruptive Innovations
Dr. Ram Shenoy – *CEO, RBR Group*

1020 – 1105 Panel 1: Strategies to Drive Technology Development in Marine and Offshore Sectors

Panel Discussion

- The technology evolution and opportunities to optimize vessel and asset efficiency in the marine and offshore industry.
- Adopting Low-Carbon and Alternative Fuels such as LNG, Hybrid and battery-electric systems, particularly effective for offshore support vessels, harbor operations, and DP (dynamic positioning) standby modes.
- Nuclear Strategies.
- The electrification of offshore platforms and vessels to significantly reduce emissions by modernizing power systems.
- Digitalization, AI, and real-time monitoring with data-driven operations are becoming the backbone of emission reduction.
- Reducing Flaring, Venting, and Fugitive Emissions as a major source of offshore emissions by stabilizing production with improved process control.
- Operational and behavioral improvements with human-centered strategies to deliver quick wins.
- The techno-economic implications of transitioning to a low-carbon ecosystem.
- The technical and regulatory barriers that need to be overcome to enable the widespread adoption of alternate fuels, such as safety, availability, cost, and compatibility.
- The benefits of integrated renewable energy technologies with oil & gas offshore facilities to drive low-carbon emissions across operations.
- Asset Integrity Management, and assurance and regulatory framework.

Programme

Moderator: Peter Wallace CEng FIMarEST – *Principal Engineer, Lloyds Register*

Speakers:

Dr. Alberto Morandi – *Vice-President of Technology & Research, SNAME and Swanston and Associates*

Brúce Strupp – *Vice President, ABB Marine & Ports Marine Systems*

Dr. Jian (Jason) Shi – *Associate Professor, University of Houston, IEEE Editor*

Collin Weston – *Director of Naval Architecture, Saronic*

Rich Byrnes – *President & CEO, Blue Sky*

1105 – 1115 Coffee / Tea

1115 – 1145 Keynote Speaker – From Wells to Facilities: Delivering Scalable Digital Value Across Offshore Production Systems

Carlos Paz – *Global Digital Delivery Manager, SLB*

1145 – 1230 Panel 2: Digital Technology for Energy-Efficient Automated Operations

Panel Discussion

- Examine various datasets and technology solutions to enhance offshore production efficiencies.
- Gain insights from industry experts who have implemented energy-efficient technologies in asset operations.
- Review case studies highlighting how renewable energy sources, smart sensors, and edge computing are improving the efficiency of legacy systems.
- Engage with professionals from diverse sectors as they share perspectives on utilizing edge analytics, IoT platforms, and data analytics to drive productivity growth.
- Explore advancements in remote operations through the integration of robotics, collaborative robots (cobots), AI cameras, ROVs, AUVs, and drones, with a focus on reducing emissions and optimizing offshore asset performance.
- Address necessary measures for safeguarding AI algorithms and models against bias and ethical issues when deploying digital solutions in critical business contexts.
- Facilitate the development of innovative solutions to effectively manage techno-economic risks in the design and operation of marine and offshore ecosystems.
- Showcase recent technological adoptions to support subsurface, subsea, and surface facilities, promoting value engineering aimed at future-proofing field operations, asset integrity and offshore asset decommissioning.

Moderator: Greg Trostel – *Global Industry Development Manager, Rockwell Automation*

Speakers:

Dr. Prabu Parthasarathy – *Global VP - Strategic Projects, Cognite*

Wayne Chen, PE – *Digital Fleet Manager - Guyana Digital Alliance (GDA), MODEC*

Dr. Bulent Mercan PhD, PE – *Technical Advisor, 2H Offshore*

Amine EL Gharbaoui – *SBM Guyana Fleet Digital Manager, SBM Offshore*

Stergios Stamopoulos – *Director of Global Sustainability, ABS*

1230 – 1330 Lunch

1325 – 1630 Afternoon Chair: **Rajnish Kelkar** - *Vice Chair, IMarEST Houston Branch*

1330 – 1350 Keynote Speaker – **Enabling Trusted Maritime Autonomy: From Remote Operations to Uncrewed Fleets**
Daryl Bangar – *Director, Business Development, ABS*

1350 – 1410 Keynote Speaker
Pedro Pinilla – *Senior Director – Ship Engineering, Excelerate Energy*

1410 – 1430 Keynote Speaker – **Accelerating Innovations and efficiency in the Offshore and Marine Sectors with NVIDIA AI Platforms**
Sri Kodali – *AI & Energy Executive, NVIDIA*

1430 – 1450 Keynote Speaker – **iCUE 4.0: Asset Lifecycle Intelligence for Offshore Infrastructure**
Dharmik Vadel – *Global Engineering Director – Integrity & Digital, 2H*

1450 – 1500 COFFEE BREAK

1500 – 1520 Keynote Speaker – **Implementing a Digital Future with Cutting-Edge Technology for Design, Asset Integrity, Enhanced Safety and Workforce Empowerment**
Gocha Chochua, Ph.D. – *Technical Advisor, Modeling and Simulation, SLB*

1520 – 1620 Panel 3: **Empowering the NextGen Workforce: Talent Development, Digital Transformation, and Overcoming Technology Adoption Resistance in the Marine and Offshore Sectors**

Panel Discussion

- Address the need for upskilling with AI and change management culture in offshore and marine digital ecosystem.
- Establish leadership strategies to overcome resistance and ensure technical efficiency in digital technology adoptions.
- Find out the go-to-market opportunities and challenges of attracting the next generation of talent from high schools and colleges.
- Learn best practices and lessons learned from other industries on success stories of managing talent to drive adoption in the marine offshore strategy to bridge resource gaps.
- Explore AI agents to support and upskilled talents in marine and offshore oil & gas operations.
- Discover how industry collaborations with universities are shaping skills acquisition and development.
- Discuss the value of mentorship in the industry and IMarEST can provide to accelerate career growth for students, early career and experienced employees in the marine and offshore industry.
- Explore ways to foster cross-sectoral collaboration and innovation among offshore and marine operators, port authorities, shipping companies, EPC services and the tech companies for young talent attractions.

Moderator: **Julie Ingram** – *Director Engineering - Subsea and Floating Facilities*

Speakers:

Margaret Kidd – *Department Chair of Logistics & Supply Chain Management, San Jacinto College*

Adam Reeves – *Engineering Training Officer, Taxes A&M Galveston*

Rachel Zhou – *Global Business Delivery Manager, Shell Shipping & Maritime*

Dr. Kamran Alba – *Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering Technology Program, University of Houston*

1620 – 1630 Summary of the day's proceedings and closing remarks
Dr. Paul Jukes – *Honorary Secretary, IMarEST Houston Branch*

1630 – 1800 Social – *Drinks and Food*



Claudene Sharp-Patel CMarTech, FIMarEST

IMarEST President - Elect | Global Technical Director, Marine and Offshore, Lloyds Register

Claudene Sharp-Patel CMarTech FIMarEST is Global Technical Director, Marine and Offshore, at Lloyd's Register, with over 30 years of experience across maritime, shipping, offshore, oil and gas, terminal operations, assurance and renewable energy. She began her career as a seagoing Marine Engineer with BHP, working on dry-bulk carriers, ROROs, container vessels and chemical tankers, before moving to oil and LNG vessels with Shell UK and BP Shipping. She holds a Bachelor of Technology in Marine Engineering, Combined Chief Engineer certification (Motor and Steam), and an MBA in Maritime Law and Logistics Management.

Claudene has held senior roles including Prelude Marine Terminal Coordinator with Shell Australia and Global Technical Director at Lloyd's Register. In her current role, she contributes to industry strategy and technical requirements aligned with IMO and IACS, supporting safe solutions in decarbonisation, digitalisation, marine safety assurance and offshore safety assurance.

She is a former Registered Consultant to the IMO and has held several leadership roles within OCIMF, including Vice Chairman of the Technical Group and membership of the SIRE Focus Group. A Fellow of IMarEST, Claudene served six years in IMarEST leadership, including as Vice Chair of the Technical Leadership Board, and is currently President Elect of IMarEST.



Dr. Nimi Abili PhD, MBA, CEng, CMarEng, FIMarEST

Chairman, IMarEST Houston Branch | President & CEO, Greater Offshore

Dr. Abili is an accomplished commercially and globally experienced Technology Development Leader with over 25 years in delivering optimal outcomes in Capital Projects, Subsea Development, Digital Engineering, Smart Factory, Automation, New Energies, Oil & Gas, and delivery of intelligent operations in the energy verticals, including with Shell, Eni, ExxonMobil, SLB, Capgemini Engineering, Greater Offshore, and Management Consulting as Chief Technology Adviser. He holds a PhD in Energy & Power (Subsea), and MSc in Subsea Engineering from Cranfield University, England; an MBA in Oil and Gas from Middlesex University London, England; and a BEng in Electronic & Electrical Engineering (Hons) from the University of Sunderland, England. Dr. Abili is the Executive Chairman of the IMarEST Houston (US Gulf Coast) Branch, a Board of Trustee in the IMarEST UK and President & CEO of Greater Offshore.



Rajnish Kelkar CEng, FIMarEST

Vice Chair, IMarEST Houston Branch | Manager, Energy & Regulatory Program, Exceleerate Energy

Rajnish is a Houston, TX-based Maritime executive with experience in management, operations, assurance, and safety within the Oil, Gas, Energy, and Maritime industries. He leads the Environmental, Energy, and Regulatory Programs at Exceleerate Energy, focusing on FSRU terminal development, environmental and regulatory compliance. Previously, he was Marine Projects Manager for the Jordan Cove LNG terminal, managing marine interfaces and budgets.

After completing Marine Engineering training at Indian Maritime University, Rajnish served on tankers with Chevron Shipping and later joined Teekay Shipping Ltd., where he became Chief Engineer. Until 2009, he held management roles at Teekay Vancouver, overseeing Fleet Performance Management, Risk, Reliability and Safety programs for around 150 vessels.

From 2009 to 2016, he was Director of Maritime HSSE at BG Group in Houston, providing leadership for maritime operations across 10 locations and about 150 assets, including LNG Carriers and offshore vessels.



Dr. Paul Jukes PhD, CEng, CMarEng, FIMarEST

Honorary Secretary, IMarEST Houston Branch | Technical Manager - Pipelines & Flowlines, 2H Offshore

Dr. Jukes has a Honours Degree in Mechanical and Structural Engineering (BEng Hons), a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) and a Doctorate in Structural Engineering (PhD). Over 28 years of experience in the Oil & Gas industry. Previously the Group Managing Director for MCS Kenny, a Division of wood (formerly Wood Group). Currently the Flowline and Pipeline SME for 2H Offshore Inc., in Houston.

Joined the IMarEST as a Graduate Member in 1998, Member and a Chartered Engineer in 1999, and became a Fellow in 2005. Honorary Secretary for the South East England Branch (SEE) of IMarEST (1999-2005) and Chairman for the 'IMarEST Young Members Network' (2005). Past Regional Co-ordinator for the Young Marine Professional (YMP) (1999-2002), and judge for the SET Awards (2003-2005). Previously Chairman of the Houston Gulf Coast Branch (2006 - 2012). Council Member (2010-2013). Board of Trustees (2007-2012). Obtained President's Commendation Award in 2006. Coauthor of the 'Encyclopedia of Maritime and Offshore Engineering' jointly with Carlton, J., and Sang Y, Wiley Books, March 2018.



Dr. Ram Shenoy

CEO, RBR Group

Dr. Ram Shenoy has over 25 years experience in upstream oil & gas, holding a variety of roles around technology development, management and marketing. He spent 20 years with Schlumberger, starting as a research scientist, and completed a series of assignments of increasing responsibility, culminating in his last position with Schlumberger as Vice-President of Research, managing Schlumberger's global corporate research laboratories.

He subsequently became Chief Technology Officer of ConocoPhillips, a position he held for 4 years. He currently advises venture capital and private equity companies on matters of technology strategy and due diligence in the energy sector. He also serves on a number of advisory boards, most notably the U.S. Secretary of Energy Advisory Board and the Project Production Institute.



Jose Guilherme Moraes

Regional Offshore Manager, Global Offshore Leadership Team, DNV

Jose is a Regional Offshore Manager with 18 years of experience in the offshore sector, specializing in maritime offshore operations and business development across North America. Based in Houston, he has led initiatives supporting Mobile Offshore Units (MOUs), including newbuilding projects, advisory services, certification of materials and components, and fleet-in-service operations.

As a member of the Global Leadership Team and Americas Regional Leadership Team at DNV, Jose has contributed to strengthening customer relationships, regional collaboration, and business development across multiple DNV locations. He has also worked closely with major oil companies and MOU owners in North America, supporting strategic alignment and client engagement.

Jose leads teams of business development professionals and plan approval engineers, promoting collaboration and innovative solutions while supporting customers in achieving their operational objectives with a strong focus on safety, asset protection, and environmental responsibility.



Cinnamon Edralin

Americas Research Director, Westwood Global Energy

Cinnamon is Americas Research Director for RigLogix at Westwood Global Energy and has been covering the offshore rig market since 2006. She began her career with ODS-Petrodata, which was acquired by IHS (later becoming IHS Markit), where she managed the Americas offshore rig team, along with the Americas marine team and the US/Canada land rig team. Cinnamon then moved to Esgian, where she helped raise brand awareness for offshore rig services, along with supporting offshore wind. She joined Westwood in 2023 and provides support for the subsea team in addition to her rig analyst duties. In 2026, she joined the Editorial Advisory Board for Offshore magazine. Cinnamon holds a BA in Liberal Arts from the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas.



Carlos Paz

Global Digital Delivery Manager, Schlumberger (SLB)

Carlos Paz is Global Digital Delivery Manager at SLB in Houston, with more than 20 years of experience in offshore and energy operations. He specializes in scaling digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, edge computing, digital twins, and advanced analytics, across offshore and production systems.

Carlos began his career as a Field Engineer in 2005, gaining extensive offshore experience across West Africa, the Caspian Sea, and the North Sea. In his current role, he leads the global deployment and standardization of digital solutions for offshore assets, including FPSOs and remote operations, integrating real-time data and digital workflows to improve asset performance, reliability, maintenance, and operational decision-making.



Daryl Bangar

Director, Business Development, American Bureau of Shipping (ABS)

Daryl Bangar is Director of Business Development at ABS (American Bureau of Shipping), based in Houston, Texas, where he leads engagement with shipyards, vessel owners, and operators across North America. His work focuses on bringing emerging technologies, including autonomous systems, remote operations, and alternative fuels, into classed service.

Daryl has more than 17 years of experience in marine classification. Before joining ABS, he held survey, audit, and account management roles at DNV, with field assignments across sub-Saharan Africa and Europe, as well as a seagoing secondment with Safmarine/Maersk aboard a container vessel. He currently works with developers and operators of uncrewed and autonomous vessels on classification and certification pathways in the US market.

Daryl holds a BSc in Mechanical Engineering from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and is a member of IMarEST.



Pedro Pinilla

Senior Director - Ship Engineering, Excelebrate Energy

Experienced Ship Engineering Senior Director with a proven history of working in the oil & gas industry. SME of Engineering across all disciplines. Skilled Senior Marine Engineering Project Manager with key knowledge in LNG, Shipbuilding, Retrofits, Engineering Management, Operations, Project Execution, change management, and technical management. He holds a Master of Science in Engineering Management from Penn State University and is a Project Management Professional (PMP) certified by PMI.



Sri Kodali

AI & Energy Strategic Partnership Executive, NVIDIA

Sri is a Technology Executive specializing in AI, developer ecosystems, and industrial digital transformation. His expertise is focused on building ecosystems and solutions that scale, including AI Factories, Open USD-based digital twins, and multi-vendor collaborations that transform industrial operations. His experience includes Global Developer Relations for Energy & Utilities with NVIDIA, Leading digital innovation across trading, supply chains, retail, manufacturing, and chemicals—driving AI and accelerated computing solutions. Sri worked as General Manager Digital & Innovation with Shell.



Dharmik Vadel

Global Engineering Director - Integrity & Digital, 2H Offshore

Dharmik is Global Engineering Director - Integrity & Digital at 2H Offshore, where he leads the company's global Integrity Management (IM) business alongside iCUE, 2H's SaaS-based Asset Lifecycle Intelligence Platform serving the offshore oil & gas and wider energy market. With over 21 years in asset integrity engineering, he previously led Clarus Subsea Integrity, Inc. (2005-2025), now part of 2H's global IM organization, where he continues as Head of IM.

In his current role, Dharmik is driving the evolution of iCUE from a service-led offering into an integrated, data-driven Asset Lifecycle Intelligence platform for offshore infrastructure.

At this year's conference, he will present iCUE 4.0: Asset Lifecycle Intelligence for Offshore Infrastructure, sharing 2H's approach to digitalization across the offshore lifecycle — from design, operations, and life extension.



Dr. Gocha Chochua Ph.D.

Technical Advisor, Schlumberger (SLB)

Dr. Chochua is a Technical Advisor at Schlumberger (SLB), where he leads the company's global Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) group and advances modeling and simulation initiatives across the oil and gas sector. With more than 20 years of industry experience, his expertise includes computational and analytical fluid dynamics, heat and mass transfer, turbomachinery, and erosion modeling and mitigation.

Dr. Chochua holds a Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Florida and has worked across the oil and gas, turbomachinery, and aerospace industries. His work focuses on physics-based modeling and simulation-driven design to improve product performance, reliability, and operational efficiency.

He has authored more than 40 peer-reviewed publications and is an inventor on over 30 patents. He also contributes to the technical community through mentorship, training, knowledge sharing, and his work as a Society of Petroleum Engineers topic organizer.



Marco Romero

Director - Sustainability & Innovation , DNV Maritime - Americas

Experienced Ship Engineering Senior Director with a proven history of working in the oil & gas industry. SME of Engineering across all disciplines. Skilled Senior Marine Engineering Project Manager with key knowledge in LNG, Shipbuilding, Retrofits, Engineering Management, Operations, Project Execution, change management, and technical management. He holds a Master of Science in Engineering Management from Penn State University and is a Project Management Professional (PMP) certified by PMI.



Peter Wallace, PE, CEng, CMarEng, FIMarEST

Principal Engineer, Lloyds Register

Peter Wallace, PE, CEng, CMarEng is Principal Engineer in the Maritime Performance Services--Applied Technology Group of Lloyd's Register, based in Houston Texas. He is a practicing naval architect working in the technology development, risk, and regulatory spaces in maritime and offshore in such topics as decarbonization, dynamic positioning, and structural digital twins. Peter holds a BSc in naval architecture and marine engineering from Webb Institute of Naval Architecture and an MBA from Tulane University. Peter is a Member of Corporation at Woods Hole Oceanographic.



Dr. Alberto Morandi

Vice-President of Technology & Research, SNAME and Swanston and Associates LLC.

Dr. Alberto Morandi is a Naval Architect with 40 years of experience in the maritime and offshore industries, developing solutions for Oil & Gas, Renewables, Construction, Carbon Capture, and Platform Re-use. He serves as SNAME Vice-President of Technology & Research, liaising with maritime nuclear groups such as MNAG and the ANS Maritime Task Force. He is a PE in the State of Texas and a Chartered Engineer in the UK as well as an expert witness to the Federal Courts of Texas and Louisiana and to the US Arbitration Association. Over 60 published papers and articles as well as speaking in conferences and industry panels, receiving an OTC best paper in 2022.



Bruce A. Strupp Jr.

Vice President ABB Marine & Ports - Marine Systems US & Canada, ABB

Bruce A. Strupp Jr. is Vice President at ABB, where he leads the company's Marine Electrification new build business across the United States and Canada. ABB is a global leader in maritime vessel and port electrification and automation. With more than 30 years of experience in the global maritime industry, Bruce has held diverse roles spanning sales, propulsion and engine product development, strategy and business development, project management and ship operations. His broad technical and commercial background provides a unique perspective on the energy transition and digital transformation shaping the marine sector.

Before joining ABB, Bruce spent 21 years at Caterpillar Inc., building deep expertise in marine power systems and customer-focused solutions. Bruce is a graduate of the United States Merchant Marine Academy, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Marine Systems Engineering. He previously held a Third Assistant Engineer's License (unlimited tonnage, steam and diesel) and served in the United States Naval Reserve.



Dr. Jian Shi

Associate Professor, University of Houston

Dr. Jian (Jason) Shi is an Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Department of Engineering Technology at the University of Houston. His research focuses on artificial intelligence and power systems, deep decarbonization of the electric grid, maritime transportation electrification, smart grid physical and cybersecurity, and energy affordability and accessibility.

Dr. Shi has authored 55 peer-reviewed journal articles, two book chapters, 50 conference papers, and one U.S. patent. He has secured more than \$1.8 million in credited research funding and contributed to projects totaling over \$9 million, supported by organizations, including the National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Energy, National Academies, and industry partners. Since 2026, he has served as an Associate Editor for IEEE Transactions on Smart Grid and IEEE Power Engineering Letters.

His work has received national recognition, including the NSF CAREER Award, the National Academies' Gulf Research Program Early-Career Research Fellowship, the DOE EnergyTech Faculty Explorer Award, and a Best Paper Award at the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting. He has also been recognized by the University of Houston, the Offshore Technology Conference, and the National Academy of Engineering.

Dr. Shi has led interdisciplinary and international collaborations in distributed energy systems and inclusive energy transition strategies. He has supervised or co-supervised nine Ph.D. students and mentored more than 30 undergraduate senior design teams, whose work has received recognition in national competitions.

He contributes actively to the professional community through IEEE working groups and technical committees, including the IEEE Marine Systems Coordinating Committee, IEEE Climate Change Technical Committee, and IEEE PES Climate Change Committee. Since 2021, he has also served on the Young Editorial Board of Applied Energy.

Prior to joining the University of Houston, Dr. Shi was an Assistant Research Professor at the Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems and an Adjunct Faculty member in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Mississippi State University, where he earned his Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering in 2014. He is a Senior Member of IEEE.



Collin Weston

Director of Naval Architecture, Saronic

Collin Weston is the Director of Naval Architecture of Saronic, where he leads the development of new vessels and ensures the continued naval architecture excellence of all Saronic products.

Throughout his career, Collin has worked on a wide variety of hull forms including yachts, high-speed recreational craft, combatants, jack-up oil platforms, amphibious vehicles, unmanned underwater vehicles, hydro foiling vehicles, and inflatable craft. His experience also spans the full design-and-build process from early-stage concept work to leading at-sea testing.

Collin holds a MS in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering from the University of New Orleans, and a BS in Maritime Systems Engineering from Texas A&M University at Galveston.



Rich Byrnes

President and CEO, Blue Sky

Rich Byrnes is a global executive and creative leader with extensive experience in maritime, energy, infrastructure, engineering, operations, and consulting. He has built organizations and led diverse teams in addressing complex management and technical challenges, and advises organizations on business strategy and infrastructure.

Rich is President and CEO of the Blue Sky Maritime Coalition, a coalition focused on accelerating innovation, efficiency, and decarbonization across North American shipping. He previously served for 10 years as Chief Infrastructure Officer at Port Houston and held senior business and technical consulting roles with global oilfield services companies.

His career spans transportation, supply chain, ports, shipbuilding, upstream, midstream and downstream oil and gas, and the public sector. He began his career managing logistics and supply chain operations at the South Pole in Antarctica before working as an oilfield engineer in Saudi Arabia and Syria. He later provided strategy, organizational, operational, and technical consulting to energy, transportation, shipping, port, shipbuilding, and government organizations worldwide.

Rich is also involved in STEM and leadership development. He serves on the board of the STEM-E Youth Career Development Program and advises initiatives including the Houston Energy Transition Initiative. He has taught leadership at Texas A&M University and strategic management at the University of Maryland.

He holds two master's degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in Ocean Systems Management and Technology and Policy, and a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He also holds an associate degree in Mathematics from Long Beach City College and leadership certificates from Texas A&M University.



Greg Trostel

Global Industry Development Manager, Rockwell Automation

Greg has over thirty years of experience in the energy industries and is currently a global industry development manager for Rockwell Automation, leading the Floating Production Initiative for both Rockwell and Sensia.

Greg started his career as a coop student with MW Kellogg based in Houston, and spent a combined 13 years with Kellogg/KBR in several engineering disciplines before moving into international sales. His time there was marked by several international assignments with a focus on joint venture partner development.

Greg also spent significant time in technology & software development within the industry, which include sales development work at Aspen, AVEVA, Meridium and PAS.

Before joining Rockwell, Greg was involved in global project pursuit and strategic account management with Puffer/Emerson, including an international assignment covering the Middle East / Africa world area.

Greg has a Chemical Engineering degree from Texas A&M University and an MBA from the University of Houston.



Dr. Prabu Parthasarathy

Global VP - Strategic Projects, Cognite

Dr. Parthasarathy helps combine domain expertise and digital technology to help clients across upstream and midstream industries harness the power of data and AI to optimize their operations, reduce emissions, and enhance safety. With over 20 years of international experience in the Oil and Gas sector, I have a deep understanding of the technical and business challenges that our clients face, and how to deliver value by combining domain knowledge with digital technologies. Before joining Cognite, I was the VP of Intelligent Operations at Wood Group, where I oversaw a global business line that provided advanced technology solutions to the process industry.



Wayne Chen, PE

Digital Fleet Manager for Guyana Digital Alliance (GDA), MODEC

Wayne Chen is the Digital Fleet Manager for Guyana Digital Alliance (GDA) at MODEC. In this role, he oversees the client's digital portfolio across the Guyana FPSO assets. He manages the digital product lifecycle, including development and acquisition, stage-gate reviews, scaled deployment, maintenance, and sustainment.

Wayne has more than 12 years of experience in the offshore upstream sector carrying out subsea structure design, project management, and digital product R&D. His career has progressed through various technical and management roles, including structural engineer, engineering lead, and project manager.

Wayne holds a master's degree in computer science from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a doctorate in structural engineering from Pennsylvania State University. He is a licensed professional engineer registered with the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (TBPELS).



Dr. Bulent Mercan PhD, PE

Technical Advisor, 2H Offshore

Dr. Bulent Mercan currently serves as a technical advisor for 2H Offshore in Houston. He has more than ten years of industry experience in the analysis, design, and integrity monitoring of structural systems for offshore oil, gas and renewable assets. His responsibilities include project management, technical sales, and technology development. He holds a PhD in Civil/Structural Engineering from the University of Minnesota and a Professional Engineer Licence in Texas.

Bulent also serves as a part-time senior lecturer at the University of Houston. He has more than eight years of teaching experience at UH. He teaches undergraduate and graduate level courses in the Civil Engineering Department.



Stergios Stamopoulos

Director of Global Sustainability for the Western Hemisphere, American Bureau of Shipping (ABS)

Stergios Stamopoulos is a maritime decarbonization and sustainability leader with more than 20 years of international experience spanning classification, ship design, regulatory frameworks, environmental performance, and digital transformation across the marine and offshore sectors.

He currently serves as Director of Global Sustainability for the Western Hemisphere at the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), where he leads sustainability activities across the Americas and Europe. He oversees regional sustainability centers in Houston, Athens, and Copenhagen, supporting shipowners, offshore operators, ports, and governments in navigating the transition toward low- and zero-carbon operations, evolving IMO and regional regulatory frameworks, and the integration of ESG and GHG accounting strategies.

Since joining ABS in 2007, Stergios has held leadership roles across Engineering, Technology, Rules & Standards, Corporate Programs, and Global Sustainability. Before joining ABS, he worked with another classification society and a naval architecture firm, contributing to vessel design and structural optimization projects.

Stergios holds a Bachelor of Engineering in Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering from the University of Glasgow, as well as an MSc in Marine Engineering and an MPhil in Marine Technology from Newcastle University in the UK. He is a Chartered Engineer (CEng) through the UK Engineering Council and a member of the Royal Institution of Naval Architects (RINA) and the Technical Chamber of Greece.



Julie Ingram

Director Engineering - Subsea and Floating Facilities, McDermott

Julie Ingram has worked in the offshore oil and gas industry for over 20 years. She started her career at Technip (now TechnipFMC) where she served in various technical, commercial and management roles, gaining experience in both shallow and deepwater before moving into a consulting role for Alpha Petroleum providing support for Operators for subsea tiebacks and new field developments. Julie then spent 4 years at Texas A&M University where she served as the Director of the Subsea Engineering Program in the College of Engineering and taught Subsea Project Implementation, Subsea Riser Design and Subsea Pipeline Design to graduate students. Julie also served as the Subsea Tieback Advisory Board academic member in her last year at TAMU. In her current role, Julie is the Director of Engineering for Subsea and Floating Facilities, with a global focus. She also serves as McDermott's Technical Authority for Flexible Pipe. Julie received her BS degree in Mechanical Engineering from The University of Texas at Austin and her MS in Mechanical Engineering from The University of Houston.

Speakers/Moderators/Panelists



Margaret Kidd

Department Chair of Logistics & Supply Chain Management, San Jacinto College

Margaret A. Kidd is Department Chair of Logistics & Supply Chain Management at San Jacinto College and Special Advisor to the President and Board of Trustees of the Houston Maritime Center & Museum. With more than 15 years of experience in higher education, she specializes in workforce development, supply chain education, and industry-aligned career pathways.

Previously, she served as Program Director and Instructional Associate Professor for Supply Chain & Logistics Technology at the University of Houston's Cullen College of Engineering, where she developed industry partnerships and workforce-focused programs. She has led state, federal, industry, and foundation-funded initiatives supporting workforce development and credential advancement.

Margaret holds a BBA, an MA in Cross-Cultural Studies, and 60 doctoral credit hours in Urban Planning and Environmental Policy, with a focus on port-city interface, sustainability, and economic development.



Adam Reeves

Engineering Training Officer, Texas A&M University

Adam Reeves is an Engineering Training Officer at Texas A&M University Galveston Campus, where he develops and delivers lecture and laboratory instruction for marine engineering cadets on shipboard systems, including oily water separators, steering gear, marine sanitation devices, and refrigeration.

With more than 15 years of maritime industry experience, Adam has a background in hydrocarbon measurement, marine transportation, and shipboard systems, along with multiple U.S. Coast Guard certifications. Prior to joining Texas A&M, he served as a Hydrocarbon Measurement Analyst at ExxonMobil, conducting global marine transportation loss analysis and providing technical guidance on oil loss claims. He also served as a voting member and chairman of the API Committee on Measurement Accountability and received the API New Member Impact Award for his contributions to petroleum measurement standards and practices.



Rachel Zhou

Business Delivery Manager, Shipping & Maritime, Shell Shipping & Maritime

Rachel Zhou is currently the Global Business Delivery Manager with Shell Shipping & Maritime, based in Houston. With more than 10 years of experience across upstream, midstream, and trading & supply, she has led projects ranging from energy infrastructure and commissioning to data platforms and AI-enabled solutions. Since joining Shell in 2023, Rachel has focused on modernizing maritime data ecosystems, advancing digital transformation initiatives, and helping organizations unlock value through data, automation, and emerging technologies. She is passionate about bridging business and technology to deliver practical, scalable solutions that improve operational performance and decision-making.



Dr. Kamran Alba

Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering Technology, University of Houston

Dr. Kamran Alba is an Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering Technology (MET) at the University of Houston (UH). He received his Ph.D. in 2013 from the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of British Columbia in Canada. After a brief industry experience in 2014 at Schlumberger's R&D center in Denmark, Kamran started his faculty appointment as an Assistant Professor at UH in 2015. His research focuses on experimental and computational fluid dynamics, multiphase flows, thermo-fluids, and rheology. Kamran's research has been funded by both federal agencies such as National Science Foundation and local industries related to valve manufacturing and carbon capture operations. He is passionate about collaborating with local companies on applied projects related to the field of thermo-fluid mechanics. Kamran is actively engaged with MET Industry Advisory Board (IAB) activities as well as hosting K-12 outreach events in UH Sugar Land campus to support workforce development in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). He has authored more than 60 refereed journal and conference publications and currently serves as the Associate Editor of the journal of Engineering Applications of Computational Fluid Mechanics from Taylor & Francis Group.



Amine EL Gharbaoui

SBM Guyana Fleet Digital Manager, SBM Offshore

Amine El Gharbaoui is SBM Offshore's Guyana Fleet Digital Manager, supporting the Guyana Digital Alliance with ExxonMobil. A digital transformation leader, he specializes in offshore energy, asset digitization, operational intelligence, and enterprise digital solutions. Building on his previous role as Global Digital Solution Manager at SBM Offshore, he shapes and delivers initiatives that enhance operational performance, strengthen data-driven decision-making, and foster collaboration with strategic customers. He holds an engineering degree in Naval Architecture and Offshore Engineering from ENSTA Bretagne and completed executive training in digital transformation at UC Berkeley. By combining offshore industry expertise with modern digital technologies, he accelerates value creation across the asset lifecycle. Before joining SBM Offshore, he began his career at Bureau Veritas Paris as a naval architect and later held several roles supporting digital transformation projects.

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