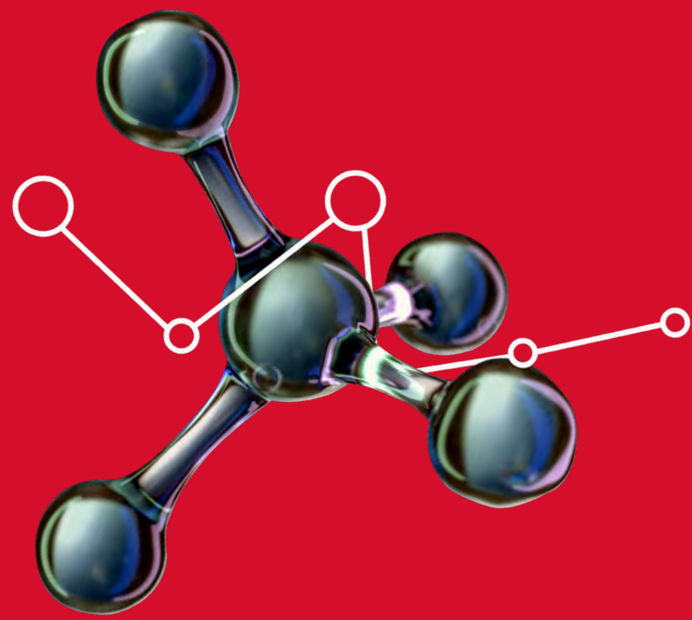
S&P Global
Energy

WPC
2026

World Petrochemical Conference 2026

Catalyzing the Transformation: Renewal for Chemicals in an Era of Disruption



March 23-27, 2026 | Marriott Marquis, Houston, Texas

Foreword

On behalf of S&P Global Energy, we extend our sincere gratitude to all who joined us in Houston from March 23–27, 2026 for the 41st World Petrochemical Conference (WPC). This year's gathering convened during a period of extraordinary challenge and transformation for our industry.

The closure of the Strait of Hormuz, and the severe disruption of global supply chains, emerged as the central issue in conference discussions. Walt Hart, head of global olefins at S&P Global Energy CERA, said in his plenary presentation that the crisis could cut global ethylene production by about 22 million metric tons in 2026—equal to 12% of 2025 output. With 29 million mt of nameplate capacity isolated in the Persian Gulf, the industry faces an unprecedented supply shock.

Yet, amid this crisis, we also witnessed strategic adaptation and long-term commitment. Mr. Pang of the China Petroleum and Chemical Industry Federation (CPCIF) detailed China's comprehensive anti-involution policy, designed to rationalize capacity and curb destructive price competition in oversupplied markets. Similarly, South Korea announced major industry consolidation through "Yeosu Project 1," integrating key assets from YNCC, Lotte Chemical, Hanwha Solutions, and DL Chemical.

Significant milestones were also celebrated, underscoring the industry's resilience. BASF inaugurated its €8.7-billion integrated site at Zhanjiang, China, completed on schedule and below budget. Meanwhile, CPChem shared progress on two massive, near-startup joint ventures with QatarEnergy in Texas and Qatar, representing $14.5 billion in combined investment.

This report distills the key themes, insights, and strategic perspectives that shaped WPC 2026. It serves as both a record of a pivotal moment and a guide to informed decision-making in the months ahead.

We are grateful for the enthusiasm, expertise, and forward-thinking vision shared by all who attended and spoke. As we reflect on an industry navigating acute disruption, we remain optimistic about the future and look forward to welcoming you to our next gathering in 2027!

Nikki Coleman

Nikki Coleman
Head of WPC,
S&P Global Energy

Event Overview

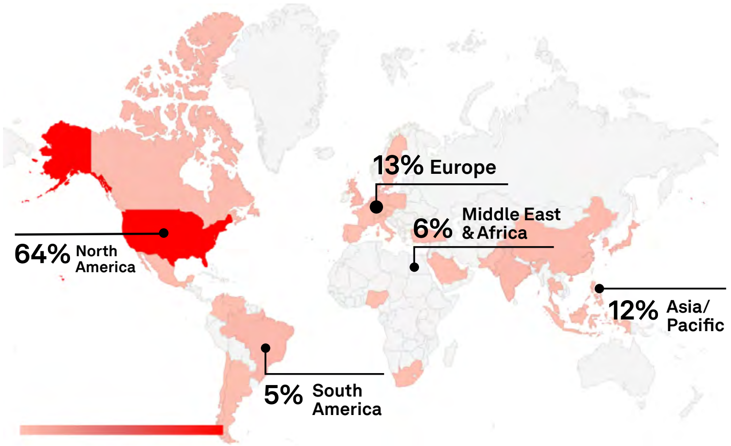
Total Attendees	Companies	Countries	Speakers	CEOs
1000	341	41	195	100

Attendee Insights

An audience of senior-level decision makers

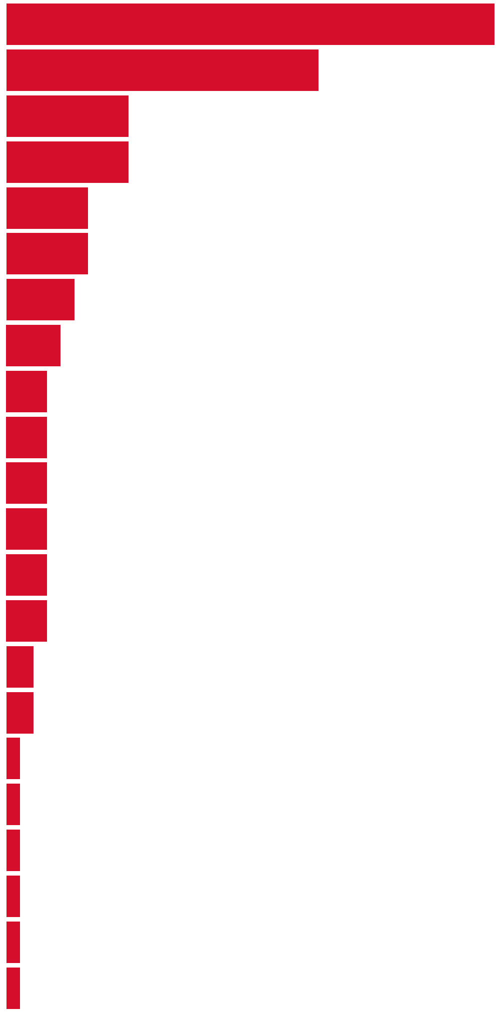
Business Management	19%	Analyst	8%
C-Suite	18%	Engineering and R&D	6%
Sales & Marketing	17%	Purchasing	4%
Other	17%	Trading	2%
Strategic Planning	10%		

Global Audience of 40+ Countries represented



Industries

Chemical Manufacturing	36%
Energy/Oil & Gas	23%
Supply Chain/Logistics	9%
Technology	9%
Consulting	9%
Trading/Distribution	6%
Transportation/Shipping/Rail/Trucking	5%
Construction	4%
Packaging	3%
Recycling	3%
Services	3%
Financial/Investment/Banking	3%
Port	3%
Coal/Metals/Mining	3%
Non-government Organization	2%
Automotive	2%
Food Manufacturing	1%
Customer/Retail	1%
Government Organization	1%
Electronics	1%
Education/Training	1%
Media/Publishing	1%



Agenda at a Glance

Monday 23 March
Training Courses

(9am - 5pm)
Petrochemical Industry Fundamentals

Petrochemical Price Forecasting

Trading Strategies for the Petrochemical Industry

Petrochemicals – Adding Value By Going "Downstream"

Tuesday 24 March
Strategic Programs

(8am - 5pm)
Circularity and Decarbonization in Plastics
Innovation & Emerging Technologies
Supply Chain Landscape Amid New Global Dynamics (half day)
Future-Focused Petrochemical Investments (half day)

Market Assessment & Outlook
Specialty Chemicals Driving Differentiation

Welcome Reception

Wednesday 25 March
Executive Conference

(8am - 5pm)
Executive Conference

Country & Western Reception

Thursday 26 March
Market Assessments & Outlooks

(8am - 10am)
Petrochemical Plenary Session: Market Outlooks

(10:30am – 12pm)
New! Trading Spotlight

(10:30am - 5pm)
Market Assessments & Outlooks
Olefins, Polymers, Derivatives
Feedstocks & Integration
Aromatics, Fibers, Derivatives
Methanol & Ammonia

Friday 27 March
Regional Spotlight

(8:30am - 12pm)

China
Latin America
India

Genius Exchange (Tuesday – Thursday)

CERAWeek Innovation Agora Access (Wednesday – Thursday)

Session Highlights & Key Takeaways

- **Unprecedented Industry Disruption –** The Strait of Hormuz closure removed 20% of global ethylene supply and 21 million barrels/day of crude, creating the most severe supply chain shock in decades. Recovery expected to take quarters, not months, with chemicals lower on the priority list than oil, jet fuel, and fertilizers when reopening occurs.

- **China's Competitive Transformation –** China has evolved from massive net importer to net exporter, operating under "asymmetric competition" with long-term strategic planning, lower construction costs, and diverse feedstocks including coal. This shift is fundamentally reshaping global petrochemical trade flows and competitive dynamics.

- **Energy Expansion Replaces Energy Transition –** The industry is reframing from "transition" to "expansion," balancing the energy trilemma of affordability, security, and sustainability. Peak oil still projected in 5-10 years, but near-term focus on diverse energy sources including renewables, biofuels, and emerging technologies like small modular nuclear reactors.

- **Supply Chain Resilience Now Critical –** Companies are prioritizing optionality, flexibility, and nearshoring over pure cost optimization. This includes diversifying supply sources, increasing inventory levels, and rethinking long supply chains—even if it means accepting slightly lower margins for greater security.

- **Regional Winners and Losers Emerging –** Americas (especially US) positioned to capitalize with low energy costs and export opportunities; Europe facing continued high-cost challenges requiring government support decisions; India as booming demand market but lacking investment; Latin America holding long-term potential pending stability improvements.

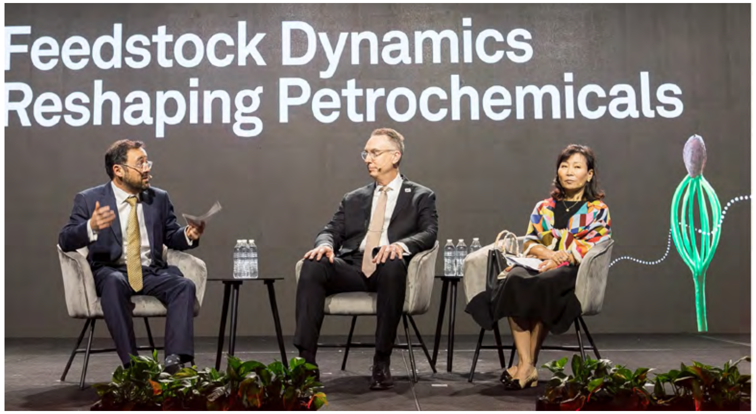
Kurt Barrow, Senior Vice President and Head of Oil, Fuel and Chemicals Research, S&P Global Energy

Session Highlights & Key Takeaways

The New Petrochemical Outlook: Mark Eramo, Special Advisor, S&P Global, Jim Fitterling, CEO and Chair, Dow and Peter Vanacker, CEO, LyondellBasell Industries

"Going into the fourth year of the downcycle, demand was starting to improve a little bit, we've seen three years of destocking. ... Inventories were continuing to come down this year, order books had started to be relatively good. And then, suddenly, the strait is shut down, and order books were very flush. The cost impacts were immediate ... overnight changes of a significant magnitude that we haven't ever seen before."

– **Jim Fitterling**, Chair and CEO, **Dow**



Feedstock Dynamics Reshaping Petrochemicals: : Moderator: Hedi Grati, Director – Petrochemical Feedstocks, S&P Global Energy, Steve Prusak, President and CEO, Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LP; Janet Kong, CEO, Hengli Petrochemical International Pte Ltd

"Whenever the Strait reopens, working through the impacts of its closure will not be quick, and it will leave the petrochemical market permanently changed Is demand going to recover? What kind of demand is it [going to be]? The disruption could also influence decisions around "anti-involution," the Chinese government's campaign to rationalize aging high-cost production capacity. What do you do with the nonintegrated crackers that today don't get access to feedstock? And if they don't get access to feedstock for a while, 6 months, 9 months, 12 months, are they still going to start up?"

– **Peter Vanacker**, CEO, **LyondellBasell Industries**

Session Highlights & Key Takeaways

Navigating the Crossroads for US & EU Petrochemicals: Sebastian Borgarello, Head of Consulting, S&P Global Energy, Peter Huntsman, Chairman, President and CEO, Huntsman; Anup Kothari, Executive Board Member, BASF and Alfred Stern, CEO, OMV

> “The war has created a different type of crisis than previous disruptions. I do think it’s different, in that a lot of the energy flows in the Ukraine crisis, they were redirected elsewhere in the world. Whereas this time in the Middle East crisis we have a physical disruption to supply flows.”
>
> – **Alfred Stern**, Chairman of the Executive Board and CEO, **OMV**

How is the Chemical Industry Reshaping For the Future?
Andrew Neale, Vice President – Global Head of Chemicals, S&P Global Energy; Karen Carter, COO and incoming CEO, Dow ; Adriano Alfani, CEO, Versalis ; Dr. Rainer Seele, President, XRG

> “The US maintains “fantastic” advantages in feedstock availability, energy costs and a more supportive regulatory framework, said Anup Kothari, executive board member at BASF SE. “But I would say I’m optimistic about Europe and also China. These three sectors, we have to play differently.”
>
> **– Anup Kothari**, Executive Board Member, **BASF**

Thought Leadership

Peter Vanacker
CEO
LyondellBasell Industries NV

Chris Jahn
President and CEO
American Chemistry Council

Jim Fitterling
Chair and CEO
Dow

Rebecca Liebert
President and CEO
The Lubrizol Corporation

Peter Huntsman
Chairman, President and CEO
Huntsman Corporation

Pratap Nair
Founder, President & CEO
Ingenero

Rajesh Samarth
Chief Executive Officer
Chevron Lummus Global

Dr. Jennifer Holmgren
Chairman & CEO
LanzaTech

Leon de Bruyn
President and CEO
Lummus Technology

Steve Prusak
President & CEO
Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LP

Janet Kong
CEO
Hengli Petrochemical International Pte Ltd

Tina Craft
CEO
Axens North America

Jacob Duer
President and CEO
Alliance to End Plastic Waste

Adriano Alfani
CEO
Versalis

François Good
President & CEO
TotalEnergies Petrochemicals & Refining USA, Inc.

Steen Lund
CEO
Rightship

Brian Davis
CEO
C2X

Amy Brachio
CEO
Carbon Measures

Matthieu Giard
Americas CEO
Air Liquide

Andre Passos Cordeiro
Chief Executive Officer
ABIQUIM-Associação Brasileira da Industria Química

Vishal Goradia
CEO
Vinmar International

Thought Leadership

DK Agarwal
Deputy Group CEO
Indorama Ventures Global Services Limited

Gina Fyffe
CEO
Integra Petrochemicals Pte. Ltd.

Michael Lefenfeld
President and CEO
Hexion Inc.

Samuel Hess
Co-Founder and CEO
UniSieve

Dustin Olson
CEO
PureCycle Technologies, Inc.

Jian Wu
CEO
Saudi Kingfa Advanced Materials Co

Alfred Stern
Chairman of the Executive Board and Chief Executive Officer
OMV

Lee Taylor
Chief Executive Officer
REsurety

Karen Carter
Chief Operating Officer
Dow

Networking Powerhouse

Executive Roundtables

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Steve Prusak
President and CEO
Chevron Phillips Chemical Company

Rebecca Liebert
President and CEO
The Lubrizol Corporation

Chris Jahn
President and CEO
American Chemistry Council

Jennifer Holmgren
CEO
LanzaTech

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Web and Social Media Reach

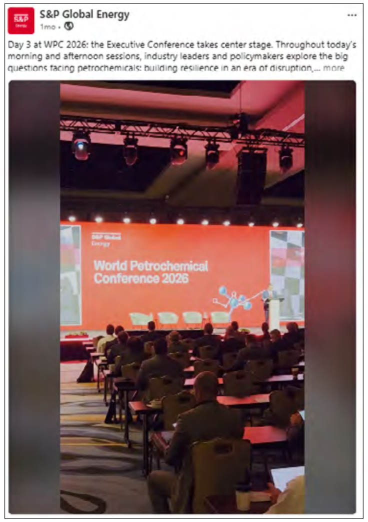
48K+
New Visitors

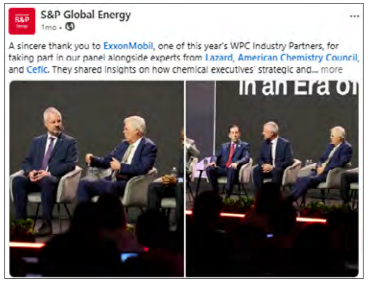
128K+
Unique Visitors

380K+
Impressions

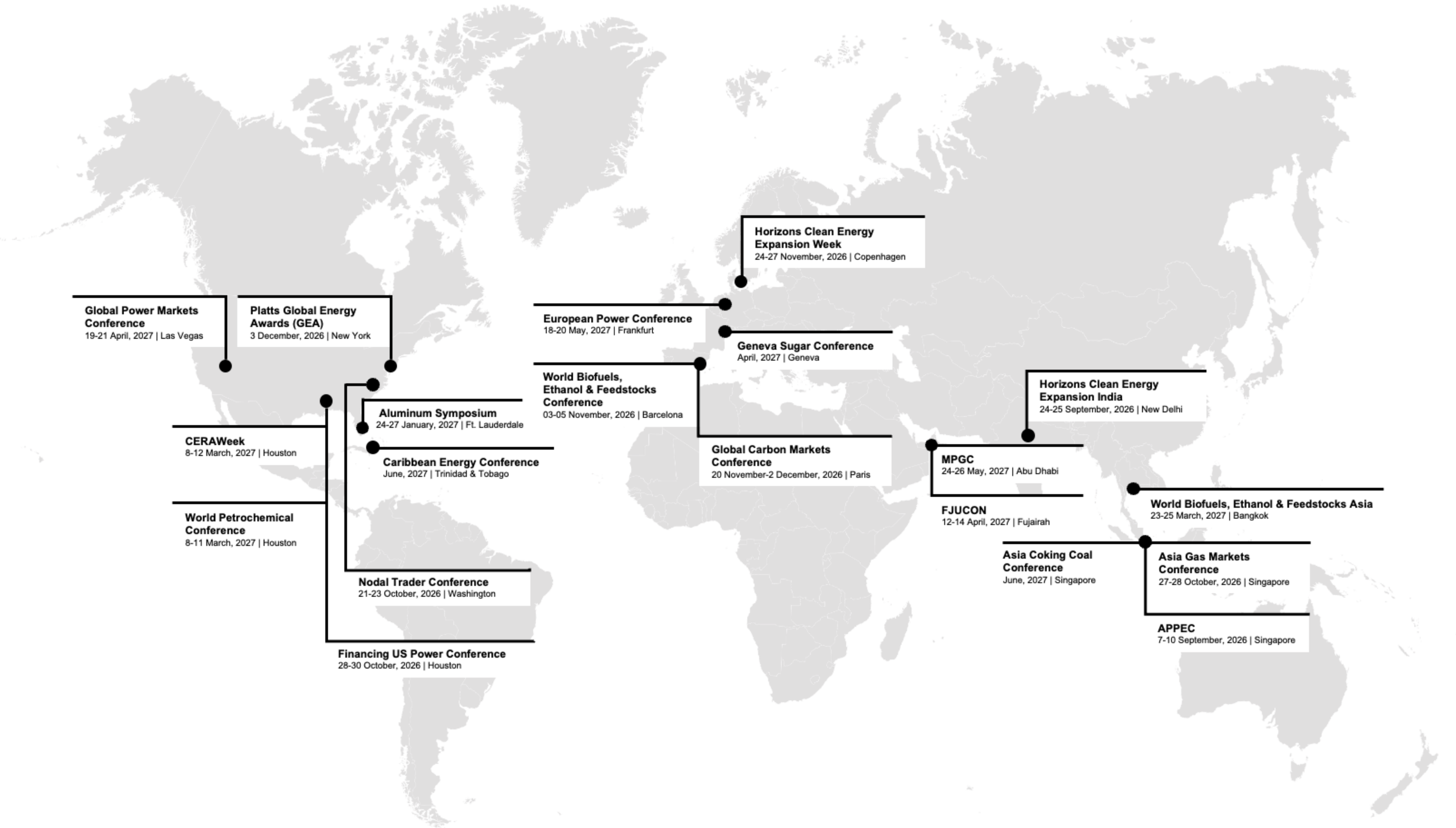
24.8k+
Engagements

Social Media





S&P Global Energy - 2026 Conferences



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Save the Date

March 8-11, 2027
Marriott Marquis, Houston, Texas