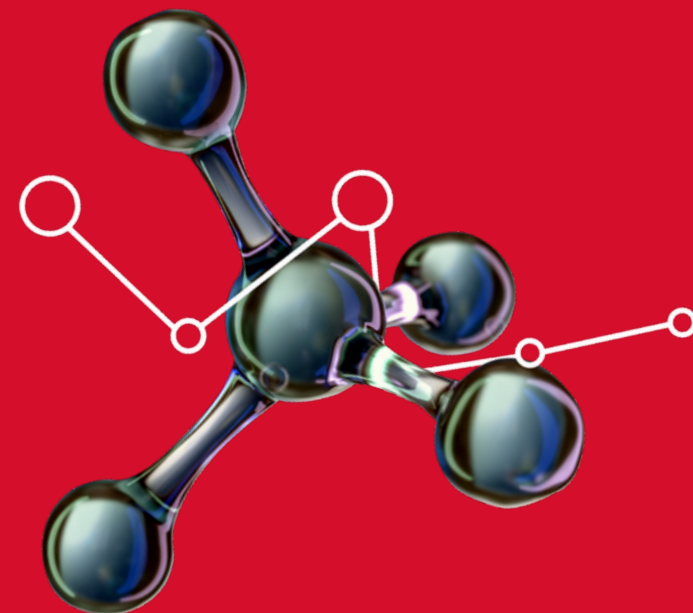


World Petrochemical Conference 2026

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
Head of WPC,
S&P Global Energy

Event Overview



Total Attendees

882



Companies

341



Countries

41



Speakers

195

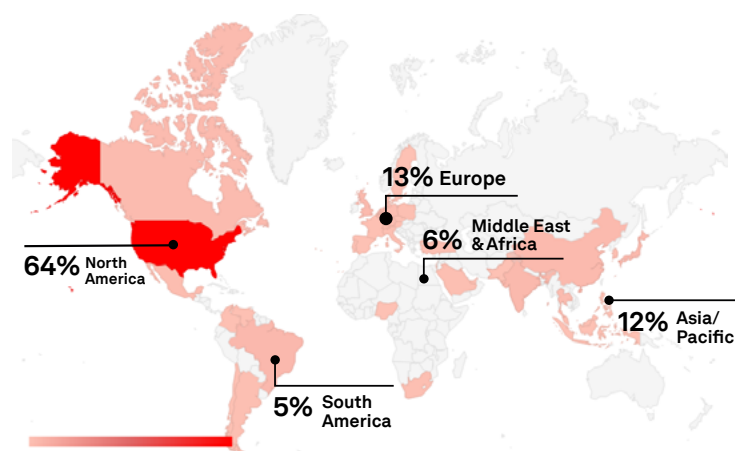


Attendee Insights

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



Agenda at a Glance

Monday 23 March	Tuesday 24 March	Wednesday 25 March	Thursday 26 March	Friday 27 March
 Training Courses	 Strategic Programs	 Executive Conference	 Market Assessments & Outlooks	 Regional Spotlight
(9am - 5pm) Petrochemical Industry Fundamentals Petrochemical Price Forecasting Trading Strategies for the Petrochemical Industry Petrochemicals – Adding Value By Going “Downstream”	(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	(8am - 5pm) Executive Conference Country & Western Reception	(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	(8:30am - 12pm) China Latin America India
Genius Exchange				
CERAWeek Innovation Agora Access				

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



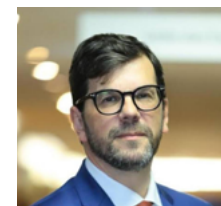
Brian Davis
CEO
C2X



Amy Brachio
CEO
Carbon Measures



Matthieu Giard
Americas CEO
Air Liquide



Andre Passos Cordeiro
Chief Executive Officer
ABIQUM-Associação
Brasileira da Indústria
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



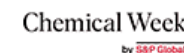
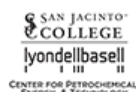
Executive Roundtables



Our Sponsors and Partners



PORT HOUSTON



Chemical Week TV Interviews



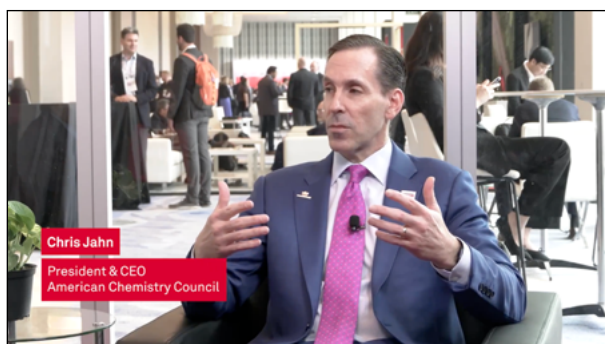
Jim Fitterling
Chairman and CEO
Dow



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

**Watch all Interviews
at WPC 2026 >**

Web and Social Media Reach

48K+

New Visitors

128K+

Unique Visitors

380K+

Impressions

24.8k+

Engagements

WPC WORLD PETROCHEMICAL CONFERENCE

Explore S&P Global

Why Attend Agenda Training Courses Speakers Genius Exchange Sponsorship



WPC 2026

The World Petrochemical Conference (WPC) stands as the longest-running and most esteemed event in the petrochemical industry, boasting a legacy that extends over 40

Chemical Week by S&P Global

3,613 followers

5mo •

Catalyzing the Transformation of the #PetrochemicalIndustry: Be part of the change at the 41st World Petrochemical Conference (#SPWPC) — happening March 23-27 in Houston, TX. With over 40 years of legacy, WPC is the premier global ...more

WPC 2026

March 23-27
Houston, TX
#SPWPC

World Petrochemical Conference

Catalyzing the Transformation
Renewal for Chemicals in an
Era of Disruption



Discover this year's
key topics >>>

Chemicals by S&P Global Energy

25,290 followers

3w •

Thank You to Our Partners. As the 41st World Petrochemical Conference begins in Houston this week, we want to extend our sincere appreciation to every partner supporting this year's conference. Your collaboration strengthens the ...more

WPC 2026

March 23-27
Houston, TX

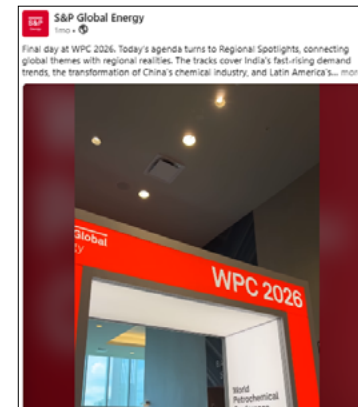
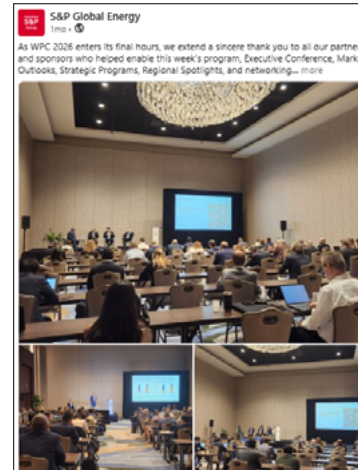
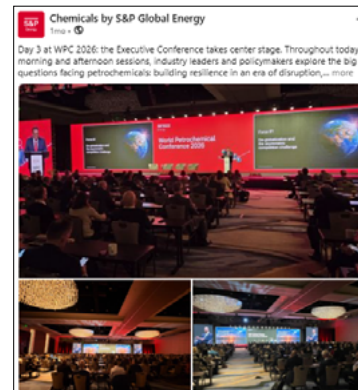
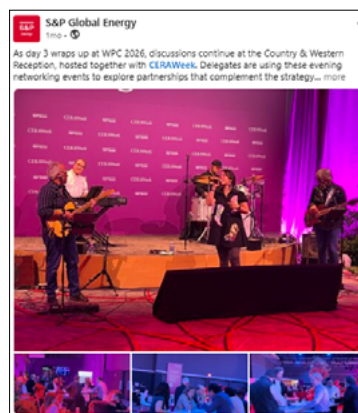
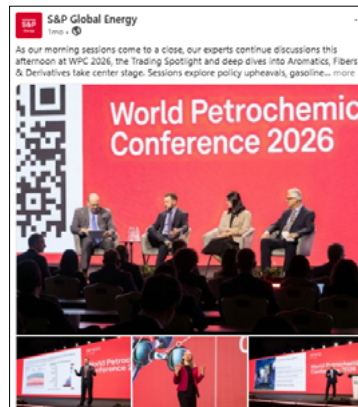
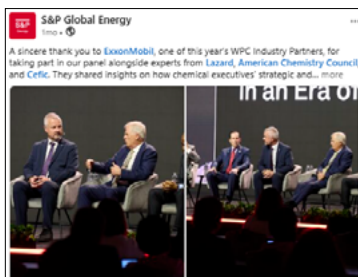
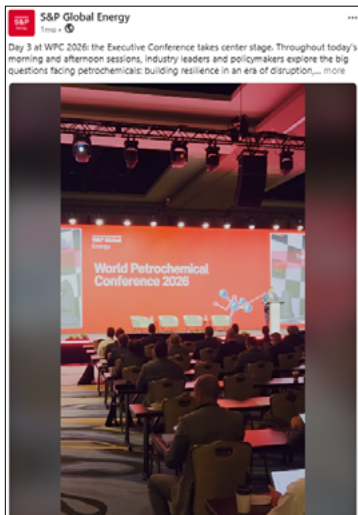
Thank You to Our Partners



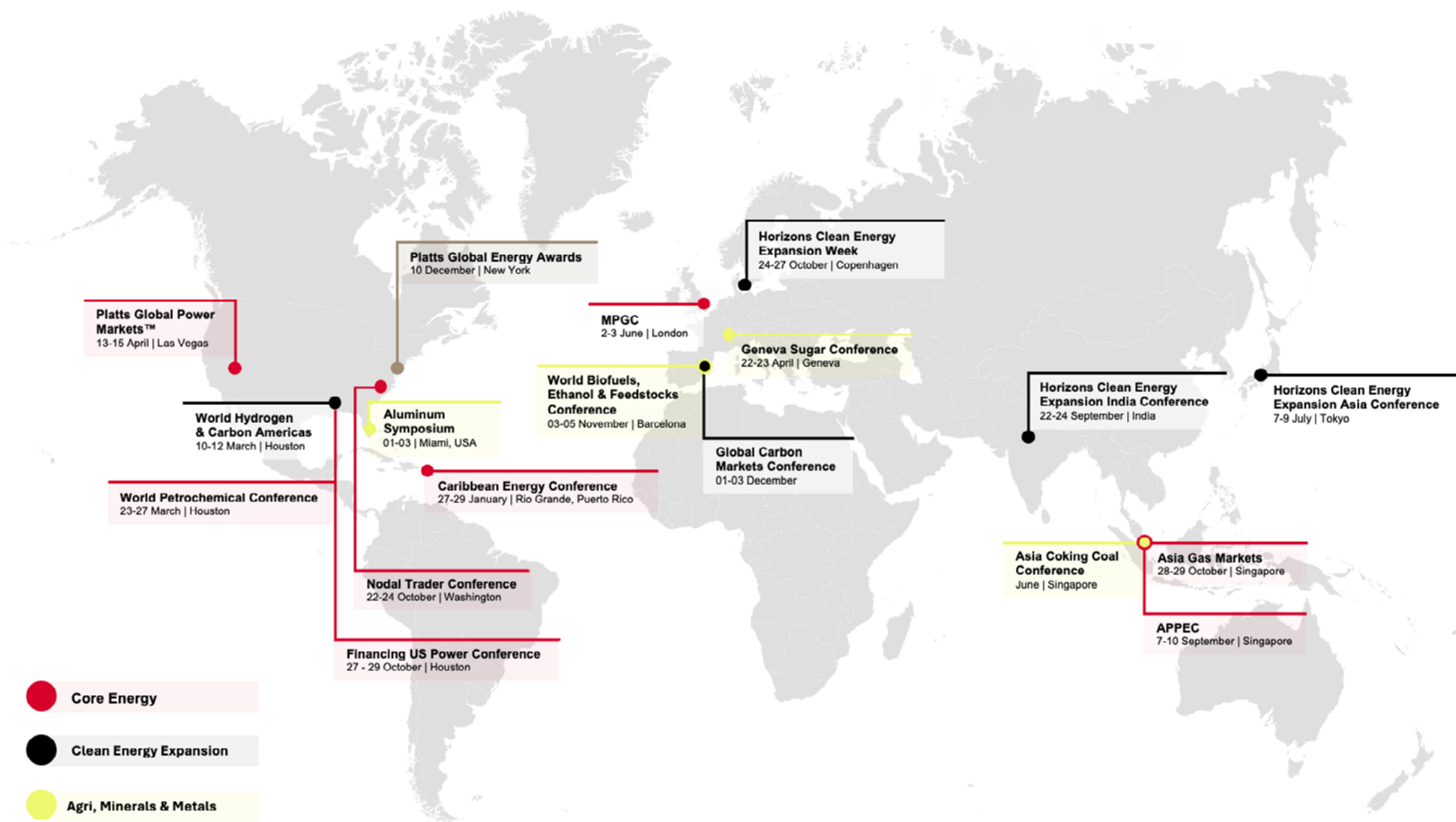
S&P Global Energy

#SPWPC
wpc.spglobal.com

Social Media



S&P Global Energy - 2026 Conferences



S&P Global
Energy

World Petrochemical Conference 2027

Save the Date



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

