



Tuesday, 21 October 2025

SPE >> ATCE

PROGRAM

ATCE Startup Village is a partnership between SPE and the Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship at Rice University.

Designed to ignite the entrepreneurial spirit in the energy industry, this competition showcases a remarkable competition for emerging startups in the energy field. Observe the competitors' ingenuity and creativity as they pitch groundbreaking solutions, technologies, and business models that will revolutionize the energy sector. Watch these energy startups compete to win prizes, gain visibility and recognition by industry leaders, gain mentorship, and network with energy investors!



Use This QR Code to Vote for the People's Choice

from 0945-1245 CDT, on
Tuesday, 21 October 2025.

You make one choice and have one vote.



Let Us Know About Your Startup Village Experience

SPE appreciates your participation in the 25ATCE Startup Village program. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey about your experience.



Energy Startup Competition

0930–0945 **Opening Remarks for the Energy Startup Competition**

0945 **People’s Choice voting begins**

0945–1230 **The Energy Startup Competition with 10 Competitors**

0945–1000	Daphne Technology
1000–1015	CT Evolution
1015–1030	PrePad
1030–1045	EOR ETC LLC
1045–1100	Direct-C Limited
1100–1115	Break
1115–1130	Hephae Energy Technology
1130–1145	Nanoborne LLC
1145–1200	Taikun.AI
1200–1215	Aqualung Carbon Capture
1215–1230	Kinitics Automation Limited

1230–1240 **Closing Remarks**

1245 **People’s Choice voting ends**

Startup Village Energy Startup Competition Award Ceremony

1600–1700 **Startup Village Energy Startup Competition Award Ceremony**

Hosted by Bryant Mueller

Honored Guest: Jennifer Miskimins, 2026 SPE President

Judges, Honored Guest, and Master of Ceremonies

Kemal Anbarci is the general manager of Venture Capital at Chevron Technology Ventures, a position he has held since 2013. Kemal has been with Chevron for over 30 years and held a variety of engineering, technology management, and commercial roles within the company. He sits on several portfolio company boards as observer and shareholder representative. He received his MS in operations research, and MS and PhD degrees in petroleum and natural gas engineering from Pennsylvania State University and his MBA from University of California, Irvine. He holds a B.S. degree in Petroleum Engineering from Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey.

Alex Biholar is the Manager of Devon Energy Ventures, where he leads the company's corporate venture capital team to identify and pursue strategic initiatives to enhance Devon's core oil and gas. He began his career as a geophysicist at SandRidge Energy in 2011, where he focused on understanding structural deformation in the West Texas Overthrust. In 2013, he joined Devon Energy, working numerous U.S. onshore basins as an asset geophysicist. In 2024, Alex served as Basin Advisor in Devon's Delaware Basin Business Unit. Alex holds a BS and a MS in Geosciences from The University of Texas at Dallas as well as an Executive MBA in Energy Management from the University of Oklahoma. He resides in Oklahoma City with his wife and their three children.

Ali Marzban is a distinguished innovation leader with over 18 years of experience in the energy sector. Ali's technical expertise spans advanced simulation and mechanical analysis, including finite element modeling, fluid dynamics, and structural and fatigue assessments. At NOV, he leads teams developing AI-driven maintenance and diagnostics solutions, with a focus on digital twin implementation, condition-based monitoring (CBM), and the application of machine learning, data analytics, and Generative AI (GenAI) to improve equipment health and operational efficiency. Ali holds a Ph.D. and MSc in Mechanical Engineering from Northeastern University and an MBA from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Additionally, he is a licensed Professional Engineer (P.E.).

Prateek Patel is a member of a small scouting and ventures team at ExxonMobil whose mandate is to introduce EM business units and technology teams to high-value external leads, inclusive of new technology, practices, and business models. Prateek's assignments with ExxonMobil have included reservoir engineering, development planning, and roles in the Middle East.

Wade Rodgers has 12 years of experience at Oxy across drilling, production engineering, and field development. For the past two years, he has worked with Oxy Technology Ventures, evaluating emerging technologies and collaborating with business units to accelerate the adoption of high-value solutions. He holds a petroleum engineering degree from Texas A&M University.

Jennifer Miskimins is a professor and the department head of the petroleum engineering department at the Colorado School of Mines (Mines), where she holds the F.H. Mick Merelli/Coterra Energy Distinguished Department Head Chair. She has over 30 years of experience in the petroleum industry, starting with Marathon Oil Company as a production engineer. She began teaching at Mines in 2002 and has held various appointments since then.

Jennifer served as the first Completions Technical Director on the SPE International Board of Directors. She was an SPE Distinguished Lecturer in 2010–2011 and 2013–2014. She was awarded the 2014 SPE Completions Optimization and Technology Award, and in 2022, she received the SPE Distinguished Achievement Award for Petroleum Engineering Faculty.

Jennifer has served on a variety of conference organizing committees, including chairing the 2023 and 2024 SPE Hydraulic Fracturing Conference and Exhibition, and as a technical editor for SPE journals, including serving as the executive editor of Production & Operations for 3 years. She was the editor in chief for the 2019 SPE Monograph update “Hydraulic Fracturing: Fundamentals and Advancements.” Jennifer has served on the AIME Board of Trustees since 2018 as an SPE trustee and was the 2022 AIME president. Miskimins holds a BS from the Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology and MS and PhD degrees from the Colorado School of Mines, all in petroleum engineering. She is the 2026 SPE President.

Bryant Mueller started his career as a production and drilling engineer for Unocal in South Texas and Louisiana. He has spent the last 25+ years leading and coaching teams in the development, marketing, and selling of digital technology solutions in upstream, midstream, and downstream markets. Bryant has held leadership positions in various startups where he has helped navigate successful exits and transitions into large publicly traded firms. He is currently Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Detechtion Technologies. Bryant has been an active volunteer with the Society of Petroleum Engineers for more than 25 years in roles such as Chairperson of the Gulf Coast Section, Regional Director on the International Board of Directors and is currently Chairperson of the SPE ATCE Startup Village. Bryant earned a BSc degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Tulsa and actively serves on the Mechanical Engineering Industrial Advisory Board. At Tulsa, he played Division 1 soccer and is a member of the athletic hall of fame; but more importantly Bryant met his wife Bridget at TU, and they are proudly raising 3 daughters.

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