

Our Speakers

2023 Global Syngas Technologies Conference

October 9-11, San Diego, California



Elliot Anise-Hicks

Founder and Chief
Technology Officer,
Oberon Fuels

Elliot Anise-Hicks is the Founder and Chief Technology Officer of Oberon Fuels, overseeing the development of their renewable DME production platform. His team at Oberon is dedicated to addressing the challenge of providing low-carbon fuel for the energy transition through modular construction and standardized core design. Elliot's tech passion was cultivated at MIT, where he participated in the Solar Electric Vehicle Team in 1994. He's also been involved in founding and leading emerging tech companies spanning various industries, from LEDs to online media. At Oberon, Elliot has guided projects from concept to operation, including a renewable DME commercial plant and a groundbreaking reactor for clean hydrogen production. His lifelong interest in resource efficiency, alternative energy, and transportation technology drives him to bring innovative solutions to the energy transition market.



Marc Bacon

President and Chief
Operating Officer,
**OMNI Conversion
Technologies**

Marc is President and COO of OMNI Conversion Technologies, with 40+ years of operations, engineering, and executive experience. Marc led the team that advanced OMNI CT's technology to commercial readiness and is now deploying it worldwide in a modular commercial design through a low-cost, high-quality international supply chain. Marc is Chair of Global Syngas Technology Council Executive Committee.



Ian Barton

Database Manager,
**Global Syngas
Technologies Council**

Ian has a Masters degree in Chemical Engineering from Cambridge University in England. Ian worked for ICI and Johnson Matthey for 36 years before retiring in 2018. He worked in several areas related to Syngas technology, including methanol technology licensing, ammonia catalyst development and SNG business management. He is currently supporting the GSTC by curating the plant and project database that is available for GSTC members via the website.



Byron Best

Chief Engineer,
Fidelis New Energy

Byron is the Chief Engineer for Fidelis New Energy. Fidelis is an energy transition firm with a focus on low carbon hydrogen, biomass power, renewable fuels, and carbon sequestration. Byron's expertise includes deployment of world scale technologies in syngas, CCS, renewable diesel, sustainable aviation fuel, renewable natural gas, cogeneration, and sustainable papermaking. Prior to Fidelis, Byron's experience includes projects from technology selection to construction for Worley, Jacobs, and Fluor.

Byron earned a B.S. in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

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Jonathan Bursnall

Vice President, Process Engineering,
S&B Engineers and Constructors

Jonathan Bursnall has more than 20 years of EPC experience in the energy industry. He is a Licensed Professional Engineer in the state of Texas and holds a degree in chemical engineering from the University of Houston.

Jonathan has worked as the lead process engineer on multiple large-scale EPC midstream projects as well as on projects in the refining and power sectors. Jonathan previously managed the Process Engineering Department for S&B and has additional business development and project management experience. He is currently the Vice President of Saber Equity helping drive investment strategy and develop projects to FID.

Ian Crummack

Managing Director,
Cobalt Energy Limited

Ian is a qualified mechanical engineer and the founder and managing director of Cobalt Energy Limited, an engineering and operational services company in the renewable power sector. Crummack has over 30 years of experience in the EfW and thermal power generation markets and has successfully delivered a number of complex and challenging projects. He is a passionate advocate for the promotion and development of renewable energy technologies and is a regular speaker at industry events.



Brad Damstedt

Senior Technology Expert,
Linde Inc.

Brad Damstedt is a Senior Technology Expert in Combustion for Linde Inc. Brad develops technology and processes to help Linde's customers achieve their goals in reducing fuel usage, enabling use of alternative fuels, reducing pollution emissions and/or manufacture of green chemicals. Additionally, Brad spends time engaging in the community to promote STEM awareness. Brad holds a BS and PhD in Chemical Engineering from Brigham Young University and has more than 15 years experience working in the combustion and partial combustion industry.



Sayan Dasgupta

Head of Technology Syngas, Syngas and Methanol Product Line,
Air Liquide Engineering & Construction

Sayan Dasgupta, based in Frankfurt, Germany, leads the Syngas team at Air Liquide Global E&C Solutions. With over a decade at Haldor Topsoe and a degree in Chemical Engineering, he boasts extensive experience in traditional hydrogen, ammonia, and methanol technologies. In his current role, Sayan focuses on cutting-edge oxygen-based technologies (Autothermal Reforming, Partial Oxidation with Carbon Capture) to produce low-carbon syngas derivatives like hydrogen and ammonia. He brings expertise in commissioning hydrogen, HyCO, and ammonia plants, including advanced features such as gas-heated reforming and sequential ammonia synthesis. Sayan and his team are dedicated to crafting technology solutions to accelerate global decarbonization.

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Grant Grothen

Principal,
**Burns & McDonnell
Engineering**

Mr. Grant Grothen is a Principal with Burns & McDonnell Engineering, a \$8.0 billion USD international engineering company. Grant has over 32 years of electric utility experience including nuclear, renewable, and fossil generation. In his past 20 years with Burns & McDonnell, he managed business units that have completed over \$10 billion USD in projects with \$3.5 billion USD in projects executed by Burns & McDonnell as an EPC contractor. He is currently leading development teams for both hydrogen and carbon capture & utilization hub deployment.

Grant holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Nebraska, a Masters of Business Administration from University of Missouri Kansas City and is a registered Professional Engineer.



Bo Hartvigsen

Senior Business
Development Director,
Topsoe PtX

Bo Hartvigsen is Senior Business Development Director at Topsoe PtX. Bo has been with Topsoe for 32 years in various roles especially within catalysts and technologies for Hydrogen, Ammonia and Methanol. Bo joined Topsoe's fast growing Power to X organization early in 2022 and is now involved with Topsoe's Power to X customer worldwide.



Russell Hillenburg

President and CEO of
Woven Metal Products,
**Modular Plant
Solutions, LLC**

Russell Hillenburg is the President and CEO of Woven Metal Products (WMP), where he began as an Operator/Worker and climbed the ranks to President. He leverages his field experience to assist clients and foresee field-related issues. Russell has nurtured key licensor relationships, contributing to WMP's global success in serving refineries and chemical plants. He also co-founded Modular Plant Solutions (MPS), an energy process modularization and project implementation firm. Russell holds three patents for industry-related products and is sought after as a subject matter expert in refining and chemical plant equipment. He holds a degree in Entrepreneurial Business from Baylor University.

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Clint Johnson

Vice President, Project
Development,
**S&B Engineers and
Constructors**

Clint Johnson is a Vice President of Saber Equity, where he originates and manages project investments across the energy sector. In his role, Mr. Johnson works with project developers, infrastructure operators, and investors to tailor solutions to project-specific needs – including supply of development capital, development support, and lump-sum EPC services.

Prior to joining Saber Equity, Mr. Johnson oversaw development and execution of large-scale energy projects over 12 years in a variety of roles at Buckeye Partners, LP. While at Buckeye Partners, Mr. Johnson helped to create a renewable power division, growing the portfolio to multiple gigawatts through platform acquisitions, project acquisitions, and organic development.

Mr. Johnson holds a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Texas and an MBA from Texas A&M University.



Jens Martin Kaltenmorgen

Research Scientist,
**Technical University
of Darmstadt**

Jens Martin holds both a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science from the Technical University of Darmstadt, in Germany. In 2018, he participated in an exchange semester in Chemical Engineering at KTH Stockholm, Sweden. Since 2020, Jens Martin has worked as a Research Scientist at the Institute of Energy Systems and Technologies at the Technical University of Darmstadt. His focus has been on fluidized bed gasification processes, including planning and supervising pilot-scale testing campaigns, gas cleaning, and liquid fuel synthesis. He also specializes in HTW gasification, Chemical Looping Gasification, Aspen Plus, and Matlab for research purposes.

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Daniel Kammen

Professor of Sustainability at the University of California, Berkeley; former Senior Advisor for Energy Innovation at the US Agency for International Development (USAID); and coordinating lead author for the IPCC

Daniel Kammen is the James and Katherine Lau Distinguished Professor of Sustainability at the University of California, Berkeley, with parallel appointments in the Energy and Resources Group, the Goldman School of Public Policy, and the department of Nuclear Engineering. His work is focused on decarbonization, energy access, and climate justice. He has served as Senior Advisor for Energy Innovation at the US Agency for International Development (USAID). Kammen is a Coordinating Lead Author for the IPCC.

Kammen was appointed the first Environment and Climate Partnership for the Americas (ECPA) Fellow by Secretary of State Hilary R. Clinton in April 2010 and served as Science Envoy for Secretary of State John Kerry (2016- 2017).

His research is focused on the science and policy of decarbonized energy systems, energy access, and environmental justice. He has published more than 450 papers, which are available on his laboratory website, the Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory (RAEL, online at <http://rael.berkeley.edu>).

Kammen has founded or is on the board of over 10 companies, and has served the State of California and US federal government in expert and advisory capacities. Kammen was the First Chief Technical Specialist for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency at the World Bank (2010 – 2011).

Kammen was educated in physics at Cornell and Harvard, and held postdoctoral positions at the California Institute of Technology and Harvard. Before moving to the University of California, Berkeley, he was Assistant Professor and Chair of the Science, Technology and Environmental Policy Program at the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs.

Dr. Kammen has served as a contributing or coordinating lead author on various reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change since 1999. The IPCC shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. He serves on the Advisory Committee for Energy & Environment for the X-Prize Foundation.

Kammen was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2020.



David Kelling

Syngas Technology Business Development Director, **Haldor Topsoe, Inc.**

David Kelling holds a Bachelors of Science in Chemical Engineering from Kansas State University. He currently works as Syngas Technology Business Development Director, Topsoe Inc. and has over 35 years of experience in the fields of: Ammonia Operations & Engineering, Methanol Operations Engineering & Management, Hydrogen Operations & Engineering Management, Carbon Monoxide Operations & Engineering Management, Partial Oxidation Operations & Engineering Management, Catalyst supply and service, and Syngas Technology Licensing.

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Jeffrey Kloosterman

Senior Research Associate,
Process Gases Technology,
Air Products & Chemicals

Jeff has over 19 years of experience in R&D and technology for industrial business development and growth. His experience encompasses high temperature processes, including gasification, shift, syngas clean up, steam methane reforming, autothermal reforming and combustion. He has led the global gasification R&D team for Air Products for the last 6 years.

Jeff received PhD in Chemical Engineering from Purdue University in 2003.



David LaMont

Senior Vice President
Corporate Development,
SunGas Renewables

David currently serves as SVP of Corporate Development at SunGas Renewables. He is a recognized expert in thermal conversion energy technologies and has nearly two decades of experience in technology assessment, deployment and financing. Most recently, he led the technology commercialization group at GTI that created and spun out SunGas. Previously, he worked for 10 years in the global energy business for ConocoPhillips, leading efforts in business and technology analysis, large scale technology deployment and strategy and planning. He has also held roles in two hydrogen and fuel cell technology startup companies. David has a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from Washington State University and an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.



Dr. Shrinivas Lokare

Director Technology and
Product Development,
SunGas Renewables

Dr. Shrinivas S. Lokare is the Director of Technology and Product Development at SunGas Renewables. With extensive experience in the gasification industry, he previously served as a Gasification Technology Manager at Reliance Industries Ltd, overseeing the construction of the world's largest gasification facility in India. Dr. Lokare also held key positions at CB&I, Phillips 66, and ConocoPhillips, specializing in E-Gas Gasification Technology. With 15 years of expertise, he focused on solid fuels characterization and control, contributing significantly to plant commissioning and debottlenecking at Reliance. His proficiency in computational fluid dynamics simulations aids technology development. Dr. Lokare holds a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Brigham Young University.



Matti Malkamäki

Founder and Chairman of
the Board,
Hycamite

Matti Malkamäki, a hydrogen business specialist and cleantech entrepreneur of over 20 years, is dedicated to decarbonizing the industry through his role as Founder and Chairman of Hycamite TCD Technologies Ltd. Committed to sustainability, Matti has played a key role in adopting clean energy technologies and holds positions in influential groups such as ECH2A, the Finnish Hydrogen Cluster, and the BotH2nia initiative. He is a sought-after speaker on hydrogen possibilities and has written numerous articles on the topic. With extensive experience in power generation and cleantech, Matti drives the transition to a low-carbon, high-energy-efficient economy through Hycamite's revolutionary methane splitting technology.

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Dr. Anant Mahale

Executive Vice President of Markets and Strategy,
Dastur Energy Inc.

Dr. Anant Mahale is Executive Vice President of Markets and Strategy at Dastur Energy Inc. Anant oversees the company's markets and growth strategy and brings 25+ years of experience as an innovator and thought leader. Anant's strengths come from his ability to draw from a career spanning leadership, hands-on experience in the process industry with expertise across a variety of functions including – Innovation, Strategic Consulting, Technology and Process transformation, Supply chain transformation, Value Engineering, Partner management, Sustainability, Business strategy, Entrepreneurship, and Customer Success.

Anant holds an undergraduate degree in Chemical Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology (Mumbai), and PhD and MA degrees in Chemical Engineering from Princeton University. Anant holds multiple US patents and publications to his credit.



John Oyen

Manager-Business Development Energy Industries,
ABB Inc.

John Oyen has over 44 years of experience in construction, process engineering, operations, and automation.

He has spent the last 15 years with ABB in business development on greenfield projects in the Energy Industries of power, hydrogen, renewable fuels/chemicals, LNG, and CCUS markets. In this role, the focus is to reduce the carbon intensity of production, efficient use of power utilizing the integrated automation and power portfolio of ABB. He serves as ABB's representative on the GSTC and the US side of NORWEP (Norwegian Energy Partners). He sits on the board of directors of the Harris County Municipal Utility District 261 (water and wastewater). He is a member of AIChE, SPE, NACC, and ISA. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering from the University of Texas at Austin.



Karsten Radtke

Global Head of Business Development,
thyssenkrupp Uhde

Karsten Radtke holds a Master's Degree in mechanical engineering and energy and environmental technologies from Ruhr University, Germany. With over 28 years at thyssenkrupp, he began his career in process engineering, specializing in oil and coal gasification. He worked as an operating engineer at a syngas generation plant before an assignment in the U.S. In 2005, Karsten led the Gas Technologies Division, focusing on gasification technologies and syngas applications. During his tenure, he formed international partnerships like KEPCO-Uhde Inc. in Korea and the BioTfuel consortium in France. After several roles, Karsten now oversees global business development and key accounts for chemical and process technologies at thyssenkrupp. He remains dedicated to the syngas and green chemicals markets.

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Sanjiv Ratan

Director of Marketing & Technology,
ZoneFlow Reactor Technologies LLC

Sanjiv Ratan is Director of Marketing & Technology for ZoneFlow Reactor Technologies LLC.

He is responsible for marketing, techno-commercial direction, and technology advancement of their ZoneFlow™ structured catalyst reactor system for steam reforming and related technologies.

Previously, he was Group DVP & Director of Advanced Technology at Technip (now Technip Energies), after having served as its Chief Technology Officer and Commercial VP for their Hydrogen-Syngas product-line.

He has a Bachelor of Technology (honors) degree in Chemical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, India. With 40+ years of experience and expertise in his field, he is well recognized in the industry and has also contributed over 80 papers in international conferences & publications, and holds two patents.



Dr. Zinovia Skoufa

Business Development Manager,
Johnson Matthey

Zina is a Chemical Engineer, with a PhD in heterogeneous catalysis. After a short stay in academia as a post-doc researcher, she joined Johnson Matthey in 2015, initially working in Johnson Matthey's Technology Centre on several step-out catalysis programmes. In 2019, Zina joined the Business Development and Innovation team, leading early stage programmes on plastic waste and biomass valorisation. Since 2021, Zina has been focusing on Power-to-X and she is currently responsible for JM's sustainable methanol business development activities.



The Honorable Vitalii Tarasiuk

Consul General of Ukraine in Houston

Vitalii Tarasiuk was appointed Consul General of Ukraine in Houston in December 2021, overseeing a consular district spanning seven U.S. states. Previously, from March 2020 to December 2021, he served as Deputy Director General of the Americas Department at Ukraine's Ministry for Foreign Affairs, focusing on bilateral cooperation with the United States and Canada.

Tarasiuk brings extensive diplomatic experience, including roles as Foreign Policy Advisor to the Deputy Prime-Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic integration of Ukraine and Minister-Counselor and Head of the Economic and Trade Office at the Embassy of Ukraine in the USA. He also served as Diplomatic Adviser to the Minister of Finance and held positions at the Ukrainian embassies in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Tarasiuk holds an advanced degree in Chemical Engineering and has contributed significantly as an invited speaker at various forums and academic institutions.

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Mark Viehman

Principal, Hydrogen and Clean Fuels,
Capgemini

Mark is the US hydrogen and clean fuels expert for Capgemini, a global information technology and engineering consulting firm based out of Paris. He spent ten years working in Saudi Aramco on industrial development projects with a sustainability focus, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, and even hydrogen-powered bus production. Prior to that he was the economist for several companies developing projects to gasify petroleum coke and coal, producing hydrogen, power and propylene.

Mark holds an MBA from the University of Chicago, and a degree in economics from Duke University.



Ray Wortham

Senior Process Engineer,
KP Engineering

Ray Wortham is a Senior Process Engineer at KP Engineering (KPE) and serves as a subject matter expert (SME) for both syngas and hydrogen production technologies. His expertise has been applied within the hydrogen, chemicals, and refining industries – across projects ranging from process studies that determine project feasibility to engineering, procurement, and construction services for industrial plants. Mr. Wortham's technical experience encompasses the development of detailed process designs, assistance with plant startups for new process units, and plant equipment safety inspections to ensure operational success. He earned a B.S. in Chemical Engineering at the University of Arkansas and is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE).



John Winter

Director of Gasification,
ARVOS SCHMIDTSCHESCHACK LLC

Dr. Winter started in the industry as an operations engineer in a gasification facility at Dow Chemical. He later joined Texaco's gasification research unit in Montebello, California developing waste gasification technologies.

After becoming the General Manager for the operation and maintenance of a pet coke gasification facility, he joined Texaco's corporate level engineering team where he led the design and manufacturing of the proprietary components in the Texaco/GE gasifiers. When GE bought the Texaco technology, he was announced Chief Engineer by GE.

After leaving GE, Dr. Winter served as Vice President of Engineering at Evergreen Energy, Inc. and Senior Vice President of Technology at Range Fuels, Inc., a biofuels company. In 2009 he spent 9 years with Synthesis Energy Systems, a fluid bed gasification technology company.

Since 2018, he has been Director of Gasification in North America at ARVOS SCHMIDTSCHESCHACK LLC

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Sean Yan, Ph. D

Blue Hydrogen Product
Manager, Process Gases
Business,

Air Products & Chemicals

Sean Yan is the Blue Hydrogen Product Manager in Air Products' Process Gases Business. Sean is mainly covering development of Blue H2 Plant Product based on AP's technology portfolio such as POx process and others. Sean has over 17 years direct experience in Hydrogen purification, gas processing, gasification and related areas, including process design, commissioning & startup support, retrofit and debottleneck, technology licensing, packaged equipment sales and Product Development lately.

Prior to his current role, Sean was the Technical Sales Manager with UOP in its global Hydrogen Business over six years. Sean also holds Technology Manager in KBR's coal gasification business and senior technical staff role in GE Energy's Gasification & IGCC Technology.

Sean holds a Ph. D in chemical engineering from University of Utah.