METECH

MIDDLE EAST REFINING & PETROCHEMICALS TECH FORUM

30 EPC YEARS

POST EVENT REPORT

DUBAI, UAE • 14-16 SEPTEMBER 2026



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INTRODUCTION



ME-TECH 2026 brought the global refining and petrochemical community together in Dubai to address a fundamental question:

How can the Middle East's downstream industry remain competitive, resilient and future-ready in a rapidly changing market?

From operational excellence and asset optimisation to AI, digitalisation, advanced technologies and decarbonisation, the three-day programme focused firmly on practical solutions and real-world value. Technical presentations, executive panels and interactive roundtables explored how operators can maximise existing assets, improve efficiency and reliability, and build greater flexibility into their businesses.

The message throughout was clear: **the next phase of downstream growth will be driven not simply by new capacity, but by smarter, more efficient and more innovative use of assets, technology and partnerships.**





CHIEF GUEST

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF TOLERANCE & COEXISTENCE



We were honoured to have **His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan bin Mabarak Al Nahayan Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence of the United Arab Emirates**, attend, and officially inaugurate **ME-TECH 2026**.

In his **Chief Guest Address**, he highlighted the critical role of the refining and petrochemicals industry in supporting modern life and economic development.



He emphasised the need to maximise the value of existing assets while preparing the downstream sector for a more efficient, resilient and lower-carbon future through greater refining–petrochemical integration, AI, digitalisation, advanced technologies and workforce development. He also stressed that successful transformation depends not only on technology, but on people, collaboration, knowledge exchange and trust.



Welcoming the international community to Dubai, he encouraged delegates to use **ME-TECH 2026** as a platform to exchange expertise, develop partnerships and build the relationships needed to drive innovation, competitiveness and sustainable progress across the downstream industry.

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MEDIA PARTNERS

KEY SPEAKERS



Norm Gilsdorf
CEO
PLANT.DIGITAL



Kshitij Sharma
Technology Services Senior Consultant
KBC (A YOKOGAWA COMPANY)



Khaled Al Qaderi
SVP Global HSE & Sustainability
BOROUGE INTERNATIONAL



Stuart Turl
Vice President Consulting - Middle East
WOOD



Richard Charlesworth
Executive Director
S&P GLOBAL ENERGY



Alan Bedell
Director Refining & Petrochemicals MENA
HONEYWELL UOP



Is'haq Al Sarhni
Head of Engineering
OQ



Mohammed Al Washahi
Head of Energy & Power
OQ



Eid M. Mejwel
Operational Excellence Division Head
YASREF



Hatem Belfadhel
Global Director of Technology
LUMMUS TECHNOLOGY



Abdulrahim Turkistani
Regional Director, Saudi Arabia & Bahrain
SHELL CATALYSTS & TECHNOLOGIES



Cicelia Van Rooi
EMEAI Energy Director
DOW INDUSTRIAL SOLUTIONS



Mikael Berthod
General Manager
OMV REFINING & MARKETING MEA



Joseph Ibrahim
Managing Director
AXENS MIDDLE EAST



Majed AlMutairi
Manager Mega-Projects
ARAMCO



Yanni Li
Lead Engineer
ARAMCO



Hernando Salgado
Technical Service Manager
BASF



Giovanni Galetti
Senior Licensing Manager
LYONDELLBASELL



Manish Saraswat
Sales Manager - Catalysts; Africa, Middle East & India Subcontinent
LYONDELLBASELL



Hasan Shafi
Middle East Advisory Leader
HATCH

ME-TECH 2026 IN NUMBERS

VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS HERE

Watch the full highlights video to relive the energy, insights, and innovation from ME-TECH 2026!

EVENT PHOTOS HERE

See the Full Photo Gallery from Dubai!

3
Days

+180
Registered Delegates

26
Countries

51
Speakers and panellists

32
Presentations

+110
Pre-arranged 1-to-1 Meetings

24
Sponsors & Exhibitors

3
Panel Discussions

1
Seminar

5
Networking Roundtables

3
Medias & Associations

1
Networking Evening


UNICAT | CUTTING-EDGE INNOVATIONS
Magcat
AFS ADVANCED FILTRATION SYSTEM
UNIPURE
DRIVING CATALYST PERFORMANCE
ADVANCED FILTRATION SYSTEM


AMETEK




Rethink your Refinery

SEMINAR

ME-TECH 2026 began with a seminar hosted by **Wood**.

The conference seminar - **Driving excellence in Downstream: What are the critical decisions transforming the Middle East?** - was hosted by **Wood**, a leader in the industry, and one of EPC's premium partners, with experts from its regional team showcasing how - as downstream operators across the Middle East push toward higher efficiency, lower emissions, and greater digital maturity, the quality of decision-making has never mattered more - with a focus on the practical approaches to de-risking decisions and accelerating sustainable, profitable growth.







CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Across three days, **ME-TECH 2026** demonstrated that the future competitiveness of the Middle East downstream industry will depend increasingly on optimising existing assets, improving operational efficiency, accelerating digital transformation and adopting practical pathways towards decarbonisation.

Day One focused on market competitiveness, digital transformation and integrated optimisation. Presentations highlighted the need for greater operational discipline, portfolio optimisation and flexibility in response to changing market conditions. Digitalisation emerged as a key enabler, with emphasis placed on moving beyond pilot projects towards scalable solutions that deliver measurable operational and financial value.

Read the full takeaways from the Keynote Executive Panel ››››





Presentations:

The Outlook for Oil, Refining and Petrochemicals: Solving One Problem, Then the Next
Richard Charlesworth, Executive Director, **S&P Global Energy**

THE WASTEWATER PRISM: Deconstructing the Hidden Complexity of Offshore NAG Produced Water
Umair Baig, Principal Process Consultant Engineer, **Wood**
Abdulmajeed Al Sanad, Process Engineer, **Aramco**

How Can Digitalisation Help Manage a Tsunami
Norm Gilsdorf, CEO, **Plant.Digital**

ROI Myths vs Reality for Digital Transformation
Fahad Izhar, Reliability Consultant, **Plant.Digital**

Turning Complexity into Margin
Kshitij Sharma, Technology Services Senior Consultant, **KBC (A Yokogawa Company)**

OME Tracking System and Dashboard
Ali M Alfaifi, Operation Department Technical Advisor, **YASREF**

Artificial Intelligence-Enabled Dynamic Risk-Based Inspection for Asset Integrity
Ahmed Algoburi, Director, **ASNT UAE Section**


METECH
wood.


wood.
ipco
WIKA


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Process change
Risk model may underestimate actual deterioration.


life cycle costing?





CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Day Two explored AI, advanced process technologies, petrochemical integration and asset reliability. Speakers demonstrated how AI, digital chemistry, advanced catalysts and process optimisation can improve yields, reliability, product quality and energy efficiency. Greater integration between refining and petrochemicals was identified as an important opportunity to extract additional value from existing infrastructure and respond to evolving product demand.

Presentations:

Enterprise Multi-Refinery, Petrochemical and Distribution Network Optimisation
Yahia Hamid, Senior Consultant, **Haverly Systems**

Agentic AI-driven Asset Reliability and Predictive Maintenance
Nikhil Chauhan, Chief Commercial Officer, **Spector.ai**

ME Refining Catalyst Demand Outlook
Sanjay Lodha, Vice President Business Development, **EPC**

Extending Catalyst Lifecycle in Gasoline Production Units Through Proactive Engineering & Operational Practices
Mohammed I. Al-Odail, Process Engineer, **Aramco**
Ahmed Z. Al-Sadah, Process Engineer, **Aramco**

Enabling Future Growth Through LyondellBasell Process and Catalyst Technologies
Manish Saraswat, Sales Manager - Catalysts; Africa, Middle East & India Subcontinent, **LyondellBasell**
Giovanni Galetti, Senior Licensing Manager, **LyondellBasell**

Enhancing Refinery Margin through Operational Flexibility
Surur Al-rashidi, Production Planning & Optimisation Engineer, **YASREF**

HPCL's World-First LCMax Unit with Integrated Pitch Solidification Powered by IPCO Technology
Bhaviksinh Mahida, National Head-Equipment Sales & Projects, **IPCO**

Crude C4 Alternatives for A Successful Grassroots Petrochemicals Project
Mikhail Khvastunkov, Engineering Specialist – P&CSD, **Aramco**
Abdulaziz Alotaibi, Process Engineer, **Aramco**

Reimagining Hydrocracking Enhancing Refinery Flexibility for Petrochemical Integration and Energy Transition
Rambabu Raja, Technical Service Manager, **Shell Catalysts & Technologies**

Transforming the FCC: A Strategic Platform for Maximising Crude to Chemicals Conversion
Hernando Salgado, Technical Service Manager, **BASF**

Excene HDPE Process Technology
Maneet Muktibodh, Polyethylene Technology Manager, **Lummus Technology**

The RIGHT Process Technology Investments CAN Accelerate the Transformation of Fuels AND Petrochemicals
Alan Bedell, Director Refining & Petrochemicals MENA, **Honeywell UOP**

Primary Reformer - Innovative Catalytic Solution
Yaqoob Kamal, Vice President Sales – APAC & MEA, **UNICAT**

Read the full takeaways from the Digitalisation & AI Panel ›››

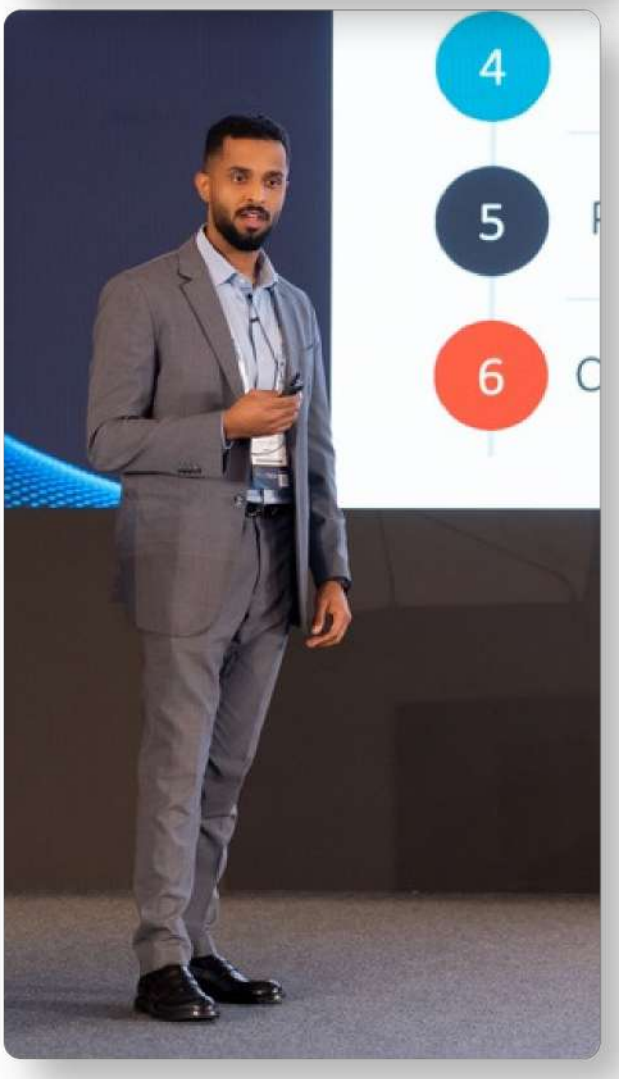

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CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS





Day Three centred on operational excellence, capital efficiency, energy performance and the energy transition. Presentations highlighted the importance of early-stage value engineering, low-capital efficiency improvements, asset-life extension and proactive reliability management.

Decarbonisation was presented as a practical, commercially driven process, with energy efficiency, carbon management, sustainable fuels and circularity providing opportunities to reduce emissions while maintaining competitiveness.

Presentations:
Regional Refining & Petrochemicals Overview - Middle East
Valentin Kotlomin, Consulting Manager, **Argus Media**

Minimal scope, maximum value: Early PDP value engineering drives capital efficiency for large refinery and petrochemical projects
Yanni Li, Lead Engineer, Aramco
Majed AlMutairi, Manager Mega-Projects, **Aramco**

Making the NetZero journey possible with high efficiency solutions
Jay Jeong, Refinery Process Specialist, **Alfa Laval**

HeavyTrap Technology: Optimizing Your Reactor to Help Prevent dP and Bed Movement
Scott Kendrick, Director, **Crystaphase**

Protecting your Refractory Lined Process Units, SMR to Claus with a Simple Economical and Proven System
Mohammed Imran Ali, Application Specialist - Sales - MEA Region, **WIKA**

Adsorption-Based Carbon Capture: From Lab Innovation to Commercial Deployment
Hamid Zentou, Postdoctoral Fellow, **King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals**
Maryam Aldoghaim, Visiting Scholar, **King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals**

Advancing SAF Through Methanol and Fischer Tropsch
Ai Wei Chua, Low Carbon Energy Leader, Process Technology, MENA, **Honeywell Technologies**

Carbon Capture & Purification from Sulphur Plant – Refinery & Gas Plant
Shirshendu Bardhan, Principal Process Engineer, **Lummus Technology**



[Read the full takeaways from the Strategy panel ›››](#)


YEARS
SHARING KNOWLEDGE,
SHAPING BUSINESS










LYB

NETWORKING ROUDTABLES



Abdulrahim Turkistani
Regional Director, Saudi Arabia & Bahrain



Hooman Haghighi
Senior Director of Energy Solutions & Decarbonisation



Richard Charlesworth
Executive Director



Khalil Sharif
Head of Digital Transformation



James Fox
Sales Director

OVERVIEW

The networking roundtables highlighted the need for greater flexibility, collaboration, innovation and commercially focused transformation across the refining and petrochemical industry.

Participants emphasised that companies operating in oversupplied and volatile markets need to become more agile, diversify their portfolios, develop strategic partnerships and create new sources of demand. Operational excellence is also evolving, moving beyond reliability and production towards data-driven decision-making, sustainability, energy efficiency and adaptation to changing market requirements.

The discussions on technology highlighted the challenges of moving innovations from the laboratory to commercial scale. Successful deployment requires sufficient investment, gradual scale-up, disciplined design decisions and an ability to manage unexpected variations in real-world feedstocks and operating conditions.

Digitalisation and AI were recognised as important sources of operational value through improved accuracy, speed, automation and efficiency.

However, participants also stressed the importance of cybersecurity, responsible AI use, accountability, employee training and avoiding excessive reliance on AI-generated outputs.

On carbon management and decarbonisation, the key challenge remains developing economically viable solutions. While carbon capture and utilisation offer potential pathways, their success depends on energy requirements, infrastructure and available markets. In the near term, improving energy efficiency can deliver both emissions reductions and operating-cost benefits, while longer-term progress will require sustained investment and innovation.

Overall, the roundtables reinforced that the industry's future competitiveness will depend on combining operational efficiency, technological innovation, commercial discipline, collaboration and organisational adaptability, while balancing immediate performance improvements with longer-term sustainability and decarbonisation objectives.

NETWORKING ROUDTABLES

ROUNDTABLE 1 – "Competing in an Oversupplied Global Market"

Moderator: Abdulrahim Turkistani, Regional Director, Saudi Arabia & Bahrain, **Shell Catalysts & Technologies**

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Flexibility is critical:** Companies need to become more agile in responding to market volatility. Smaller, empowered business units can potentially respond faster than large organisations constrained by processes and inertia.
- **Diversification can build resilience:** Vertical integration and portfolio diversification can help companies offset weaker performance in one area through opportunities elsewhere.
- **Partnerships can address competitive gaps:** Middle Eastern companies can leverage their feedstock-cost advantages while partnering with international companies to access complementary capabilities, technologies and experience.
- **Regional hubs could strengthen competitiveness:** Greater regional collaboration and the development of hubs were identified as potential ways to improve market resilience.
- **Demand creation matters:** Economic-development projects can create new demand while supporting jobs and broader economic growth.

Core message: Resilience in oversupplied markets will depend on flexibility, diversification, strategic partnerships and the ability to create or access new sources of demand.

ROUNDTABLE 2 – "Operational Excellence as the New Competitive Advantage"

Moderator: Hooman Haghighi, Senior Director of Energy Solutions & Decarbonisation, **Wood**

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Operational excellence is evolving:** The traditional focus on production, reliability and extending asset life is expanding to include digitalisation, data-driven decision-making and sustainability.
- **Market requirements are changing:** Operators need to respond to external regulations, changing product specifications and evolving end-market demand to remain competitive.
- **There is no universal approach:** Operational excellence means different things depending on an asset's age, complexity, economics and operating context.
- **ROI must underpin improvement projects:** Companies need to assess potential benefits, required modifications, risks, timescales and investment returns before implementing changes.
- **Technology alone is insufficient:** Successful transformation also requires cultural change and organisational willingness to adopt new ways of working.
- **Knowledge sharing can accelerate change:** Sharing successful case studies and lessons learned can help build confidence in applying new approaches across other assets.
- **Energy efficiency has wider relevance:** Operational and energy efficiency will also be important as the region develops energy-intensive investments such as data centres.

Core message: Operational excellence is becoming a broader discipline combining asset performance, digitalisation, sustainability, economics and organisational change.

NETWORKING ROUDTABLES

ROUNDTABLE 3 – "From Innovation to Impact: Real-World Technology Deployment"

Moderator: Richard Charlesworth, Executive Director, **S&P Global Energy**

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Technology development requires patience and capital:** Moving technology from TRL 1 through to commercialisation can take significant time and investment.
- **Buying or licensing technology does not eliminate risk:** Acquiring a start-up or licensing technology at a higher TRL can accelerate development, but long-term operational performance may still be unproven.
- **Scale-up is a major risk:** Moving directly from laboratory development to full-scale operation creates significant risk, particularly for complex technologies such as fluid beds.
- **Gradual scale-up is important:** Progressive development through pilot, demonstration and semi-commercial stages can help manage technology risk.
- **Design decisions eventually need to be frozen:** Continually developing a design can prevent progress; at an appropriate point, the design needs to be fixed so the next development stage can proceed.
- **Feedstock variability must be anticipated:** Real-world feedstocks can differ substantially from laboratory assumptions, creating unexpected technical and operational challenges.

Core message: Successful technology commercialisation requires disciplined scale-up, adequate investment, design discipline and preparation for real-world feedstock variability.

ROUNDTABLE 4 – "Digitalisation & AI: Engineering-Led, Not Hype-Driven"

Moderator: Khalil Sharif, Head of Digital Transformation**, Plant.Digital**

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Digitalisation is already delivering measurable value:** Examples discussed included improved accuracy and speed, time savings and automation of repetitive tasks.
- **Cybersecurity and data protection are major concerns:** Organisations need to consider the risks of employees entering sensitive operational or organisational information into public AI platforms.
- **Internal AI environments offer one potential solution:** An internally hosted AI environment could allow employees to use AI while keeping organisational data within the company network.
- **AI accountability needs to be defined:** If an AI-supported decision leads to a poor outcome, organisations need clarity over who is responsible—the individual, management, organisation or technology provider.
- **Over-reliance on AI presents another risk:** Excessive dependence could weaken employees' ability to independently analyse data and challenge AI-generated conclusions
- **Training and governance are essential:** Before deploying AI widely, employees should receive guidance on responsible use, accountability, validation and cross-checking of AI outputs.

Core message: AI can create significant operational value, but adoption needs to be accompanied by strong data security, governance, accountability and employee training.

NETWORKING ROUDTABLES

ROUNDTABLE 5 – "Carbon Management & Decarbonisation Pathways"

Moderator: James Fox, Sales Director, **KBC (A Yokogawa Company)**

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **The economics remain challenging:** Carbon capture can require substantial additional energy, making the business case difficult without appropriate economic incentives.
- **Carbon capture is only part of the challenge:** Once CO_2 is captured, companies need commercially viable pathways for its utilisation or storage.
- **Potential CO_2 utilisation routes include:** Enhanced oil recovery, food-grade CO_2 and conversion into other products such as methanol and aromatics.
- **Infrastructure and markets will determine viability:** Available energy, infrastructure and demand will influence which carbon-management pathways can be commercially developed.
- **Energy efficiency offers an immediate opportunity:** Reducing energy consumption can simultaneously lower emissions and operating costs, potentially creating a competitive advantage.
- **Innovation requires sustained investment:** Continued technological development and human ingenuity will be necessary to address complex decarbonisation challenges.
- **Large challenges should be broken into achievable milestones:** The UAE's hydrogen strategy was cited as an example of using staged, five-year milestones rather than attempting to solve the entire challenge at once.

Core message: Decarbonisation needs to be commercially grounded, with near-term energy-efficiency opportunities complemented by sustained investment in technologies, infrastructure and CO_2 utilisation pathways.

















NETWORKING EVENING

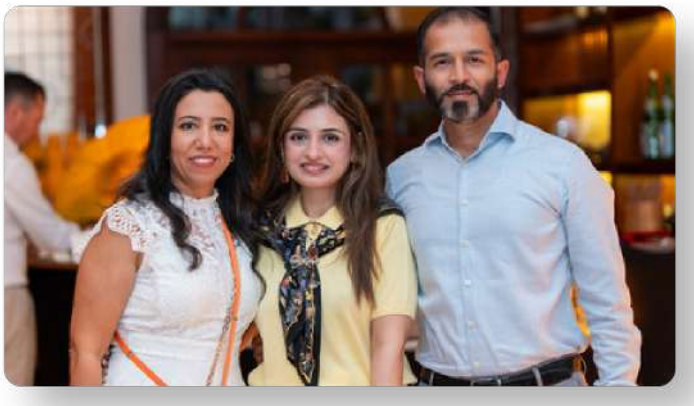
Beyond the conference sessions, ME-TECH 2026 once again provided extensive opportunities for networking.

The Networking Evening not only provided a vibrant and memorable backdrop for informal conversations and new connections, it also saw EPC celebrating its milestone **30th Anniversary!**

Over the past three decades, EPC has established itself as a premier technical consultant and event organiser, driving innovation and fostering strategic partnerships across the downstream industry.

Celebrating this occasion at **ME-TECH 2026** provided an ideal opportunity for EPC to extend its sincere gratitude to the sponsors, speakers, panellists, and delegates whose continued loyalty, insight, and collaboration have helped to make EPC's events the success they have been.

Looking forward, EPC is excited to see what the next 30 years might hold, and to continuing to help shape a dynamic, sustainable, and resilient future for the refining and petrochemicals industries.













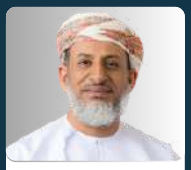


KEYNOTE EXECUTIVE PANEL

Redefining Competitiveness Amid Market Volatility and the Energy Transition



MODERATOR
Richard Charlesworth
Executive Director
S&P Global Energy



Is'haq Al Sarhni
Head of Engineering
OQ



Mikael Berthod
General Manager
OMV



Stuart Turl
Vice President Consulting - Middle East
wood.
a Sidara company



Cicelia Van Rooi
EMEAI Energy Director
Dow



Joseph Ibrahim
Managing Director
Axens
Powering integrated solutions

OVERVIEW

The panel highlighted that downstream competitiveness is increasingly defined by resilience, flexibility and the ability to adapt, rather than simply by scale, volume growth or incremental efficiency. With market volatility, geopolitical uncertainty, changing customer demand and the energy transition reshaping the industry, companies need to plan across multiple scenarios and build greater optionality into their operations.

A central message was that short-term profitability and long-term transformation are not competing priorities. Existing assets should be maximised through operational excellence, reliability, energy efficiency, digitalisation and greater feedstock and product flexibility, while selectively investing in decarbonisation and future technologies. The panel stressed that highly efficient, flexible assets can simultaneously support profitability today and prepare businesses for lower-carbon operations tomorrow.

The discussion also emphasised the importance of transforming rather than replacing existing infrastructure.

Brownfield assets can be adapted through electrification, co-processing, circular feedstocks, petrochemical integration, predictive maintenance and AI-enabled optimisation. However, investment decisions must remain disciplined and evidence-based, taking into account technology readiness, customer demand, regulation, emissions reduction and commercial viability.

The panel identified significant advantages for the Middle East, including integrated refining and petrochemical infrastructure, access to feedstocks, renewable energy potential, geographical position, government support and access to capital. These strengths provide a strong foundation for developing more resilient and diversified downstream businesses.

Overall, the panel concluded that the future downstream business will need to be flexible, integrated, digitally enabled and commercially disciplined. Rather than treating the energy transition as a wholesale replacement of existing systems, companies should use their current assets and capabilities as a foundation for progressively building a more resilient, lower-carbon and adaptable portfolio.

DIGITALISATION & AI PANEL

Unlocking the Full Potential of Today's Assets



MODERATOR
Hasan Shafi
Middle East Advisory Leader
HATCH



Eid M. Mejwel
President & CEO - Office - Operational Excellence Division Head (A)
Yasref



Arvin Singh
Head of Digital Advisory MEA and SE-Asia
wood.
a Sidara company



Khalil Sharif
Head of Digital Transformation
PLANT DIGITAL

OVERVIEW

The panel explored how digitalisation and AI can unlock greater value from existing refining and petrochemical assets, focusing on five key areas: value creation, value measurement, investment, risk and organisational capability.

A central message was that organisations should start with the business problem rather than the technology. AI should be deployed where it can deliver measurable improvements, with predictive maintenance, energy optimisation, planning and scheduling, real-time operational alignment, safety and administrative efficiency identified as key opportunities.

The panel stressed the importance of measuring business impact rather than simply counting AI initiatives. Value should be assessed through both tangible benefits—such as production gains, cost reductions, efficiency and energy savings—and less easily quantified benefits including safety, workforce capability and improved decision-making. Organisations were encouraged to focus on a small number of high-value use cases, prove their impact quickly and then scale them.

On investment, the panel suggested that mature, proven AI applications can increasingly be treated like capital projects, while emerging technologies such as generative and autonomous AI may require dedicated innovation funding and staged validation.

Clear business cases, well-defined milestones, accountability, and value measurement should apply to both.

Risk and governance were identified as critical, particularly in high-risk operational environments. Organisations need to establish where AI can make decisions, where it should provide recommendations and where it should not be used. Human oversight remains essential for critical operational decisions, while cybersecurity, data protection and the underlying digital infrastructure must be addressed alongside AI deployment.

Finally, the panel highlighted that people are central to successful AI adoption. Organisations need to build trust and capability among frontline operators, process engineers and other users, rather than relying solely on additional technology or data-science resources. Introducing AI in an advisory role can help build confidence progressively.

Overall, the discussion highlighted a shift from AI experimentation towards disciplined, value-driven deployment: identify the problem, define the value, prove the impact, manage the risk, involve the people, and then scale.

STRATEGY PANEL

Balancing Short-Term Profitability with Long-Term Sustainability



MODERATOR
Monika Singh
Senior Director
HATCH



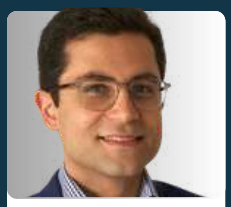
Mohammed Al Washahi
Head of Energy & Power
OQ



Khaled Al Qaderi
SVP Global HSE & Sustainability
BOROUGE INTERNATIONAL



Yasser Mahmoud
Refining & Biofuels Licensing Manager
Shell Catalysts & Technologies
Transforming Energy Together



Hooman Haghighi
Senior Director - Energy Solutions and Decarbonisation
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a Sidara company

OVERVIEW

The Strategy Panel examined how downstream producers can remain profitable, resilient and competitive while responding to energy security and decarbonisation challenges.

A central message was that resilience increasingly depends on flexibility and optionality, rather than trying to predict future market conditions. Operators should maximise the value of existing assets through operational excellence, energy efficiency, reliability and greater feedstock, product and supply-chain flexibility.

The panel also highlighted the importance of end-to-end thinking. Technology is increasingly available, but successful deployment depends on connecting customers, markets, financing, technology providers, EPCs, regulators and operators around a commercially viable project. Security of demand is becoming as important as security of supply, particularly in markets experiencing oversupply.

For the Middle East, the panel identified significant structural advantages, including competitive energy and feedstock, modern assets, strong infrastructure, strategic geography and access to major markets.

These advantages can support the development of lower-carbon and higher-value products, provided carbon performance is measurable, credible and commercially relevant.

Decarbonisation should increasingly be viewed as an economic opportunity rather than simply a compliance cost. The recommended approach is to begin with "no-regret" measures such as energy efficiency and process optimisation, before progressing to more capital-intensive technologies such as CCUS, SAF and other solutions where the economics support them.

Finally, the panel emphasised that collaboration will be critical to the industry's future. Operators, technology providers, EPCs, regulators, financiers and customers need to work together, while regional and cross-border collaboration could help reduce costs and share infrastructure and investment risk.

TESTIMONIALS

BOROUGE INTERNATIONAL

"ME-TECH 2026 was well organised, with experienced participants, and energetic vibes!
Thanks for the opportunity."

LUMMUS TECHNOLOGY

"Thank you for an exceptional and well-organized event. It was a great pleasure to address such a distinguished, knowledgeable, and professional audience. The level of engagement, technical expertise, and meaningful exchange of perspectives created an inspiring environment for learning and collaboration. I truly appreciate the opportunity and look forward to future interactions."

Shell Catalysts & Technologies
Transforming Energy Together

"A great event, especially the addition of the Roundtables session this year, which was a great way to meet people, discuss and share ideas on pertinent topics."

PARCO

"Comparing it with the ADIPEC last year, ME-TECH 2026 was a pleasant surprise. Such insightful and engaging discussions, the content and the networking opportunities were great. EPC did a commendable job by arranging one-on-one invites and exclusive facilitation."

aramco

"We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the EPC team for organising such a successful ME-TECH 2026 conference.

Thank you for accepting our presentation and providing us with the opportunity to share our experience and insights with industry leaders. It was a pleasure to be part of the event, exchange ideas and engage with fellow industry experts.

We thoroughly enjoyed the conference and would be delighted to participate in future ME-TECH events."

wood.

"ME-TECH continues to be one of the most valuable forums for sharing practical experiences, emerging technologies, and lessons learned across the downstream and energy sectors. What sets it apart is the quality of the discussions and the willingness of participants to openly exchange ideas and challenges. It was a privilege to contribute this year, and I look forward to seeing how the conference continues to evolve in 2027."

سامرف
Samref

"I was looking forward to participating in this event because I have heard so much about it this year. I have presented at various exhibitions and events, but ME-TECH appears to be a true Hub of technology and experience!"

#METECH IN THE MEDIA

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CONCLUSION

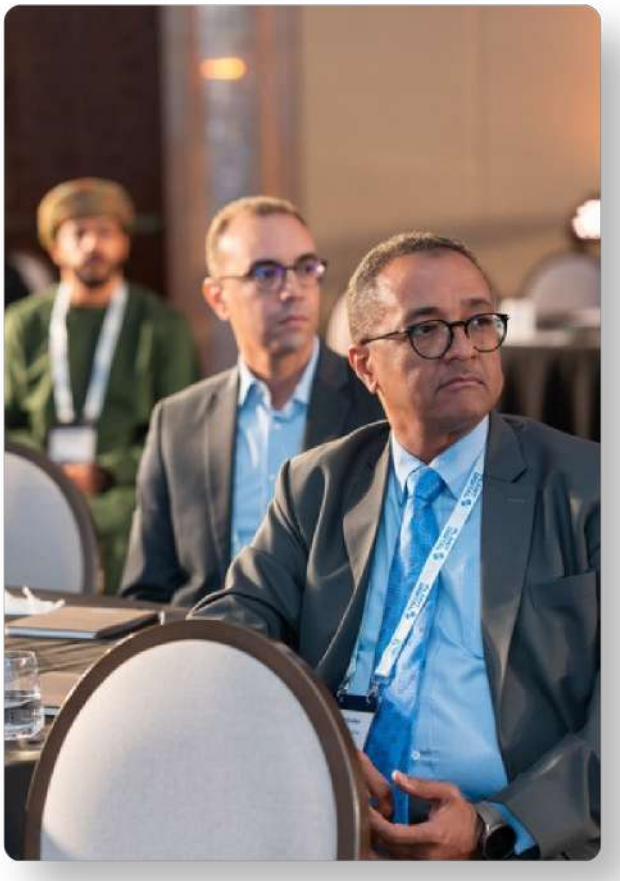
ME-TECH 2026 demonstrated the continued importance of collaboration, innovation and technology in supporting the evolution of the Middle East's refining and petrochemical industries. Across the conference programme, industry leaders and technical experts highlighted both the scale of the opportunities available to the region and the need for practical, commercially focused approaches to addressing an increasingly complex operating environment.

A consistent message emerging from the discussions was that improving competitiveness will require more than investment in new capacity. Greater value can also be created through the optimisation of existing assets, improved operational performance, enhanced energy efficiency, digitalisation and AI, advanced process technologies and more effective integration across refining and petrochemical operations.

At the same time, sustainability and decarbonisation are becoming increasingly embedded within long-term business and investment strategies. The discussions at ME-TECH 2026 highlighted the importance of pursuing these objectives alongside reliability, profitability and operational excellence, with technology and innovation providing important enablers for achieving this balance.

The event also reinforced the value of direct industry-to-industry engagement. Through executive panels, technical presentations and networking roundtables, delegates were able to exchange experiences, challenge established approaches and identify areas where greater collaboration can accelerate progress.

Ultimately, **ME-TECH 2026** provided a valuable forum for the industry to assess where it stands today and consider the technologies, strategies and partnerships that will shape its next phase of development. The insights generated throughout the event underline the importance of continued dialogue and knowledge sharing as Middle East refiners and petrochemical producers seek to strengthen competitiveness, maximise asset value and build a more efficient, resilient and sustainable downstream industry.



ME-TECH

30 EPC YEARS

A huge thank you to all our speakers, sponsors, panellists, and delegates, who attended and contributed to the success of ME-TECH 2026. We're already looking forward to continuing the discussions next year.

SAVE THE DATE FOR ME-TECH 2027!

Dubai I 4-7 may 2027

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Contact us today and don't miss out!



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