

OMC 2019 - CLOSING EDITORIAL

OMC 2019 held in Ravenna from 27 to 29 March, exceeded expectations once again welcoming **23,400 participants** at the event, **600 exhibiting companies**, **33 countries**, occupying an overall area of more than **30,000 square meters** of exhibition space and conference areas. Overall official participating delegations came from Egypt, Libya, Kazakhstan, Angola, Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Cyprus, Greece, Lebanon, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, United Arab Emirates just to name a few.

Innocenzo Titone Chairman of OMC 2019 and Michele De Pascale Mayor of Ravenna inaugurated the event together with Giancarlo Giorgetti, Undersecretary of State to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Simon Flowers, CEO of Wood MacKenzie, Pratima Rangarajan, CEO of Oil and Gas Climate, Abed Ezz El Regal, CEO of Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC), Luigi Ciarrocchi, Executive Vice President for Italian Region of ENI, Marc Benayoun, CEO of EDISON, Stefano Cao, CEO of SAIPEM, whilst John Follain of Bloomberg moderated the **Opening Ceremony** and the successive debates.

"As organizers - commented Innocenzo Titone, Chairman of OMC 2019 - we are very satisfied with this edition both for the presence of 600 exhibiting companies and for the number of visitors, but what really satisfies us the most is the **quality of the networking between visitors and exhibitors, which creates a continuity of long-lasting relationships**". The Undersecretary for Economic Development Davide Crippa, present on the closing day, was able to verify for himself the importance of the oil & gas Italian sector in the general energy scenario. Not surprisingly, during a panel session he stated clearly that oil & gas companies will have a significant role in the upcoming years also preparing young professionals who will operate in the renewable energy sector. **Thus - added Titone - the oil & gas industry must**

remain alive to lead the transition towards renewables. We are no longer talking about only oil & gas companies, but companies in the energy sector".

The conference addressed all the themes of the oil & gas supply chain and energy sector: **27 technical sessions with 112 papers and 10 digital poster sessions with 48 papers were presented during the 3 days of debates supported by projects and studies, including 3 highly specialized Panel Discussions,** dedicated to some very topical issues:

- *DEVELOPMENT OF MED GAS HUB: THE ROUTES TO EUROPE* - presented by Maurizio Coratella, COO Onshore E&C Division of Saipem, Pierre Vergerio, Executive VP of Gas Midstream, Edison Energy Management & Optimization Division.
- *EAST MED GAS POTENTIAL: ADDITIONAL RESERVES TO BE FOUND AND EXPLOITED?* - presented by Efthymios Efthymiou, Geoscience Lead, Cyprus Hydrocarbon Company, Yannis Bassias, President & CEO, Hellenic Hydrocarbons Resources Management and Luca Bertelli, Eni's Chief Exploration Officer.
- *THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES: NEW BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN* - presented by Davide Crippa, Undersecretary of State to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Fabio Fava, Professor of Environmental Biotechnology of the University of Bologna, Giovanni Caprino, of the Technology Cluster Blue Italian Growth, Yannis Bassias, President & CEO of Hellenic Hydrocarbons Resources Management, Demetris Fessas, Executive Director of Cyprus Hydrocarbons Company and Sergio Polito, Vice President of Assomineraria.

The **Programme Committee**, composed of 38 experts from international companies and universities, and its **Chairman Roberto Cimino** (ENI V.P. R&D Planning & Technology Scenario), carried out an important selection amongst **over 450 abstracts received**, to identify the best presentations to be included in the 27 technical sessions and 10 digital poster sessions of the conference programme.

The selection of the **best papers** was therefore even more challenging!

For the Technology & Innovation category the winner was "New pendular floater for offshore wind commercial farms" presented by Thierry Delahaye, Paul Frank, Christophe Colmard, Frederic Gentil - Saipem; for the HSE & Sustainability category the winner was "H25 Detection while drilling: a new approach" presented by Luca Mascheroni - Geolog; and for the Digital Transformation category the winner was "A novel machine learning-based tool support for source rock identification from biomarkers data: theory and case studies" presented by Alfonso Amendola, Angelo Riva, Sara Camici - Eni, together with Alex Turola, Massimo Zampato - Eniprogetti. A special award for Engineer of Tomorrow, was assigned to Slimane Ouakka (University of Bologna), Sanjay Arwade, Amber Kapoor, Matthew Lackner (University of Massachusetts), Rochele Lunquist, Julie Worsnop (University of Colorado at Boulder), Andrew Mayers (Northeastern University) for their paper "Mediacanes, Mediterranean hurricane eyewall winds action on offshore wind turbines".

During the 3 days of the exhibition many different initiatives were carried out by associations and companies that aimed to present their research and findings as well as their current and future projects with workshops and "tech talks" sessions. The DGS-UNMIG of the Ministry of Economic Development presented on March 27 the workshop entitled "**Clypea - Innovation Network for Future Energy**", where the results of the CLYPEA network program were presented. The discussion focused on the features of this network program which is an innovative hub promoted by the DGS-UNMIG, to share skills and experiences amongst institutions and companies engaged with the challenges that the energy sector is facing in the transition scenario. Assomineraria - Italian Petroleum and Mining Association - also steered important initiatives that gathered not only its own associates in the Italian territory but also some important foreign delegations. In particular two of their presentations highlighted the main aims of the recent activities of Assomineraria: **Internationalization & Capacity Building for a Sustainable Business Environment in Oil & Gas producing Countries** (second day) and **Riding the Digital Transformation and the Environmental Transition: the key features of**

the Italian Oil & Gas value -chain (third day). The third day closed with a remarkable initiative by ASTER, a consortium company for innovation and technology transfer between the Emilia-Romagna Region, the Universities, CNR, ENEA, INFN and the regional cluster of the Chambers of Commerce, which presented the state of the art of the **NeSSIE Project**: a pilot project that aims to define three other pilot projects, demo-cases, with the aim of identifying new materials and industrially advanced technological solutions to tackle the problem of corrosion by increasing the competitiveness of power generation from offshore renewable sources, such as wind, tidal and wave power.

Finally, the program of the side events was integrated with **Tech Talks presentations**, mainly dedicated to exhibiting companies, which presented a wide program of topics and attracted the attention of many visitors. The protagonists of the Tech Talks were: QINT'X - Romagna excellence of the EPC in photovoltaics and wind power; Tecsa - Technologies for Safety and the Environment; PDO - Petroleum Development Oman in combination with OPAL - Oman Society for Petroleum Services, and JSRS - Joint Supplier Registration System (body designated by the Omani Oil and Gas Ministry); ANIMP that presented the SIM - Systems & Information Management; and still another player of these special side events was also Lloyd's Register that focused on the advantages produced in economic terms and not only, by good compliance practices; Total E&P presented the Tempa Rossa 4.0 case - special focus on digitization; and finally Retionline presented the National Energy initiative which was developed to debate how upstream can and must contribute to the energy transition.

OMC 2019 traditionally dedicates a large space to young people through the **Youth Program**: the Arena space welcomed on the second day 450 young professionals and university students coming from many Italian universities (Milan and Turin Polytechnics, La Sapienza of Rome, University of Pisa, of Chieti, of L'Aquila, of Potenza, of Ravenna, of Trieste and of Bologna). These young delegations were able to meet

leading companies in the Italian and international energy sector in an open debate. In the late afternoon, the program ended with the award for the Student Paper Contest, a paper contest promoted by SPE (Society of Petroleum Engineers) for the MSc and PhD categories: Nicolò Lontani, from Politecnico di Milano, won the master section with a paper on the theme "VIVACE (Vortex Induced Vibrations for Aquatic-Clean Energy): Converter as a solution for the upgrading and requalification of offshore platforms"; Riccardo Borghi (Saronno) also from Polytechnic of Milan, was the runner-up in the same section and was also awarded the prize for "Best paper overall", the best absolute presentation, with a paper entitled "Sensitivity analysis and decision trees for the identification of the cause of pressure oscillations in Oil & Gas production systems". The section reserved for doctoral graduates was won by Ali Islam, of Al Azar University in Cairo, for a paper on "A new approach to improving reservoir modelling via artificial neural network". Second classified in this section, Gianmaria Pio, from the University of Bologna, for his paper about "Modelling liquefied natural gas pool fire".

OMC is also an opportunity to **network outside the box**: the social and side events allowed the participants to have informal meeting opportunities, such as the *Golf tournament* on March 26th, the *Welcome Cocktail* promoted by the Ravenna Chamber of Commerce, the *Gala Dinner* sponsored by ENI, and finally the *Baroque Music Concert* in the Basilica of Sant' Apollinare Nuovo in the city center, promoted by PROGER in cooperation with the Ravenna Festival Foundation.

Nonetheless the core of OMC event is undoubtedly **the exhibition with over 30,000 square meters, that hosted 600 companies of the Italian, European and international energy supply chain**, with their products and services, with over 4500 representatives during the days of the event as evidence of the great know-how of the professionals in this sector. There were **7 exhibit pavilions for indoor displays** and an external area of about 3000 square meters. **51% of the exhibiting companies came from the Italian regions** (Emilia Romagna, Lombardy, Piedmont, Veneto, Lazio, Tuscany, Puglia, and Campania), **27% from European countries** (Belgium,

Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Malta, Montenegro, Norway, Romania, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Ukraine, United Kingdom), **16% from countries in the Middle East and North Africa** (Egypt, Iran, Israel, Libya, Mozambique, Oman, Turkey, UAE), **5% from North America** (USA), and **1% from Asian countries** (Korea, China). All products and services of the oil & gas sector were displayed, from the **extraction, refining and production of energy, through components and highly-specialized machines, engineering and design services, to management systems, transport, distribution and use of energy resources**. There were also companies offering B2B services, specific to the sector such as **security systems, consulting, communication agencies, certification and research**. Visitors had direct access to many and different production realities, could network with new protagonists of emerging markets, as well as with expert and pioneers of the o&g sector, which today more than ever is driving the energy transition. Last but not least, the **best stand prizes** were awarded: for Technological Architecture category- BONATTI, for Creative & Captivating Design category - PROGER, for the Effective Brand Communication category - EGYPTIAN PETROLEUM SECTOR, and for the Most Original Shell-jury special prize Customization that was conquered by CEA.

Amongst OMC 2019 exhibitors you could encounter some of the most important **national associations in the oil & gas sector** and beyond: ANIMP - National Association of Industrial Plant Engineering, ANIMA - Organization of companies in the mechanical sector, ITA - Italian Trade Agency, GISI - Association of Italian Instrumentation Companies, Confindustria Romagna and finally ROCA - Ravenna Offshore Contractors Association (founding partner of the event). These associations have actively promoted the event, hosted, national as well as foreign countries delegations of guests in their exhibition stands, and organized various meetings, networking and debates among participants.

Lastly, Eurosportello - Special Agency of the Ravenna Chamber of Commerce deserves to be mentioned, as it promoted in synergy with Promos Italia, Simpler and EEN Enterprise Europe Network, **over 450 B2B meetings**, many of them transnational, with participants from 17 different countries.

OMC is waiting for you from 24 to 26 March 2021 to present the state of the art of the energy sector and to provide and discuss the prospects for the energy market in the Mediterranean region.

For information:

OMC - Offshore Mediterranean Conference

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