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**E&P Professionals From Around the World Gather
For an Historic SPE Annual Conference**

RICHARDSON, Texas, USA (22 September 2010) – The Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) 2010 Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition (ATCE) was held this week in Florence, Italy, and brought together approximately 4,700 oil and gas professionals from 70+ countries around the world.

For the past 85 years, ATCE has been the leading technical conference in the upstream oil and gas industry, bringing together current best practices and emerging technologies to the engineers, scientists, managers, and executives in attendance.

It is the first year that the conference has been held outside of the United States. Approximately 60% of this year's attendees were from Europe, the Middle East, Asia Pacific, the Russia and Caspian area, Africa, and South America.

This year's conference received 1,800 paper proposal submissions, the largest number ever submitted for an SPE event. Of those, more than 400 were selected for presentation.

More than 250 exhibiting companies from 17 countries, utilizing approximately 4,000 sq meters of exhibit space, featured the latest products and services in the E&P industry.

Panelists in Monday morning's Opening General Session, "Gas Market Variables In The Global Energy Equation," discussed how worldwide demand for natural gas likely will continue to soar, but the oil and gas industry faces challenges in meeting that demand.

Moderator Andrew Gould, chief executive officer of Schlumberger, noted the spectacular growth of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and the rise of unconventional resources spurred by drilling and completion innovations. A diverse group of panelists echoed these remarks and provided examples of how their companies have been involved in LNG developments, shale gas, and clean technologies to support future demand.

Panelists included:

- Sara Ortwein, President, ExxonMobil Upstream Research Company
- Michael Stoppard, Managing Director, IHS CERA
- Yan Cunzhang, President, PetroChina Company Ltd.
- Howard Paver, Senior Vice President, Global New Business Development, Hess Corporation

Also on Monday at the ATCE Chairman's Luncheon, Claudio Descalzi, chief operating officer for E&P of Eni, shared his insights on how operators must refocus on improving competencies, relationships with producing countries, and corporate culture in order to succeed in the future. He noted that, with global demand predicted to soar, international and national oil companies must become smarter, more effective, and more efficient in their production operations.

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On Wednesday, 50 Tuscany-area science teachers participated in a unique workshop presented by SPE and the National Museum of Science and Technology Leonardo da Vinci. Teachers received comprehensive, objective information about the scientific concepts of energy and its importance, while discovering the world of oil and natural gas exploration and production. This workshop is one component of SPE's energy education program, Energy4me. Energy4me is a public outreach program and web resource designed to help students and adults become more educated consumers of energy.

ATCE's time-honored events included the Annual Awards Banquet, which recognized individuals for their significant contributions to the oil and gas industry, and the President's Luncheon, which offered the "State of the Society" address from 2010 SPE President Behrooz Fattahi, who passed the presidential gavel to 2011 SPE President Alain Labastie.

Fattahi stated, "As energy professionals, we face a grand challenge today—how to meet global energy demand in a sustainable way that protects the environment. Now, at the end of my term, I believe more strongly than ever that as the largest, most global, and most prestigious professional society supporting our industry, SPE is well positioned to help the industry address this great challenge."

ATCE 2011 will be held from 30 October to 2 November in Denver, Colorado, USA. For additional information on ATCE, visit www.spe.org/atce.

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About SPE

The Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) is a not-for-profit professional association whose members are engaged in energy resources development and production. SPE serves 92,000-plus members in 117 countries worldwide. SPE is a key resource for technical knowledge related to the oil and gas exploration and production industry and provides services through its publications, conferences, workshops, forums, and website at www.spe.org.