



## Panel Discussion: Navigating Uncertainty

### 2009 AspenTech Worldwide User Conference

Monday, May 4, 2009

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

(Panel Discussion to immediately follow lunch at 12:00 p.m.)

<http://www.aspentech.com/uc2009/>

Join us at the AspenTech Worldwide User Conference for a special Panel Discussion moderated by **Dr. Ric Jackson, Director at FIATECH**, with guest panelists from **BASF, ExxonMobil, Saudi Aramco, Sunoco, and Technip**.

Given the current economic climate, the process industries are facing difficult decisions every day. “Lean and mean” has taken on a whole new meaning. But for many process manufacturers and engineering companies, increasing operational efficiency remains the number-one goal. Is the way you manage your business consistent with the overall industry? What are the most pressing challenges and how are your peers addressing them? Can best practices and technology help address these challenges? How can you increase your visibility and value within the organization? Join us for this lively, highly interactive panel discussion where representatives from some of the top process manufacturers share their insight and experiences in navigating uncertainty. We welcome your questions and active participation.

### Industry Panel

Axel Polt, BASF

Venky Chittur, ExxonMobil

Taher Al-Nemer, Saudi Aramco

Srinivasan Vanchinathan, Sunoco

John Rizopoulos, Technip

Moderator: Dr. Ric Jackson, FIATECH

### Speaker Bios



#### **Dr. Axel Polt, BASF SE**

Axel Polt is Director, Conceptual Process Engineering for BASF SE, Ludwigshafen, Germany, directing a group of more than 35 Process Engineers. Axel has more than 20 years of experience in Conceptual Process Engineering, Value Improving Practices, and Project Evaluations. He has additional experience in Troubleshooting and Technical Consulting, as well as more than 700 Process/Plant Value Improvement Practices or Workshops. His recent activities have been focused on Innovation and Change Management. Axel holds a Dr.-Ing. in Thermodynamics.



**Venky Chittur, ExxonMobil**

Venky has been with ExxonMobil for 20 years. Of these, the last 17 years have been in the area of APC, implementing and supporting DMC applications at various sites. While nominally attached to the Central Research/Engineering organization, he has spent most of his career in the field, in hands-on roles. He spent nearly 9 years on assignment at ExxonMobil's Joint Venture Refinery in Yanbu, Saudi Arabia, where he was instrumental in the successful application of DMC to most areas of the refinery. In 2004, he repatriated to ExxonMobil Research and Engineering, in the Central Engineering Office in Fairfax, Virginia, where he is presently in a support role for users worldwide.



**Taher Al-Nemer, Saudi Aramco**

Taher Al-Nemer is the Supervisor of Pipelines and Simulation Unit in Saudi Aramco. He has led in his previous jobs the Process Automation Unit and the Advanced Process Control Unit in Saudi Aramco. Taher was the team leader for the MVC implementation program throughout Saudi Aramco Gas Plants. He has published several technical papers in different journals and conferences. He holds BS and MS degree in Systems Engineering from KFUPM Saudi Arabia.



**Srinivasan (Cheenu) Vanchinathan, Sunoco**

Cheenu has been involved with process modeling, simulation, advanced process control design and implementation for more than 16 years. He has implemented DMCplus controllers on various refining and chemical units including Crude, vacuum, FCC, gas plant, Hydrocracker, phenol, etc. He is currently serving as the APC group leader at Sunoco Inc, Philadelphia, and is responsible for planning and implementing APC projects, identifying value added applications, product evaluation and recommending strategic direction. Before joining Sunoco in 1998, he worked for Setpoint and AspenTech and holds a Ph.D in chemical engineering from Auburn University.



**John Rizopoulos, Technip**

John Rizopoulos (JRizopoulos@technip.com) is Vice-President of Process Engineering for Technip USA Inc. Houston. He has more than twenty five years of experience in the E&C industry. In addition to his diverse experience in Heavy Oil Upgrading, Petrochemicals and Polymers, he specializes in computer applications for Chemical Engineering, Global Engineering Work-Sharing and Commercialization of new Process Technologies. Rizopoulos holds a BAsc in Chemical Engineering from University of Windsor, Canada. He is a registered professional engineer in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, and Texas.



**Dr. Ric Jackson, FIATECH**

Dr. Jackson is the director of FIATECH, an industry consortium focused on accelerating the deployment of technologies to improve the design, engineering, construction, and maintenance of capital projects. As director, Dr. Jackson manages the consortium's technical initiatives, including the Capital Projects Technology Roadmap, Automating Equipment Information Exchange, Accelerating Deployment of ISO 15926, and Smart Chips.

Previously, Dr. Jackson was the director of the Manufacturing Engineering at the National

Institute of Standards and Technology, directing a staff of 400 in research and development in advanced technology for the manufacturing industry.

Dr. Jackson speaks at national and international forums on integration, automation, and interoperability in the construction and buildings industry and has published over 100 technical papers and reports. He holds a bachelor's degree from Johns Hopkins University, a master's degree from Southern Methodist University, and a doctorate from George Washington University.