

From 31 May – to 3 June 2017 at Baku Expo Center took place Caspian Oil & Gas 2017, the 24th International Exhibition, the largest energy sector event in the Caspian region. Over more than two decades, the exhibition has recognised as the platform for establishing reliable business relationships, closing valuable contracts and successfully implementing projects. Each year, the exhibition is attended by more than 10,000 local and international professionals. The Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SOCAR) both show invaluable support for Caspian Oil & Gas.

The exhibition was preceded by a press conference and 43 media representatives attended the press-conference from AzTV, AzərTac, APA, CBC, Lider TV, Salamnews, Xəzər TV, TREND and others.

The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev, who traditionally chairs the opening ceremony, congratulated participants, guests and the Organizers on this significant event. In his speech, the head of state underlined the role of the energy complex in the country's economy and assessed the relevance and popularity of the oil & gas exhibition which for over twenty years remains the flagship of the most important events of the industry. According to the head of state, the holding of the Caspian Oil & Gas exhibition in Azerbaijan is a significant event. It is the 24th event in a row which is a bright indicator. The event exposition sows a steady growth. Mr. President recalled that the holding of the first Caspian Oil & Gas exhibition was a very important event from the point of view of familiarizing the world community with Azerbaijan as an oil power. Ilham Aliyev expressed gratitude to the Organizers of the exhibition which has been cooperating with Azerbaijan for 24 years and has contributed to the development of the oil and gas industry, while demonstrating the country's industrial achievements on the world stage.

The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Diplomacy in the Department of State's Bureau of Energy Resources Ms. Robin Dunnigan read the letter of US President Donald Trump, in which it is emphasized that the United States attach great importance to the projects with Azerbaijan, support the development of the country and its efforts aimed at ensuring energy security.

Then it was shown the video message of Mr. Maroš Šefčovič, the Vice-President of European Commission for Energy Union. After the speeches, President Ilham Aliyev reviewed the exposition of the exhibition.

The Caspian Oil & Gas 2017 exhibition gathered 300 companies from 30 countries including Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Kazakhstan, China, Japan, the Netherlands, Poland, and others. Italy participates with the national stand. Newcomers, making up 15% of exhibitors, include companies from the UK, Romania, the USA and other countries.

The event's status is reaffirmed by its line-up of leading Azerbaijani companies and leaders in the oil and gas industry sponsoring the exhibition. Exhibiting companies presented a wide range of equipment, services, innovative technologies for oil production and transporting energy resources, storage systems for oil and gas, platforms and floating drilling rigs, pipe laying and pipe security systems, and services. A series of stands presented technologies for fuel purification and production, from raw materials to the finished product.

Traditionally Caspian Oil & Gas exhibition's Platinum Sponsor is SOCAR, the Gold Sponsors is BP, and the Silver Sponsor is Turkish Petroleum. Among the Bronze sponsors are Azeri M-İ Drilling Fluids, Baku Steel

Company, AZFEN, Caspian Drilling Company Ltd, Caspian Marine Services (CMS), Global Energy Azerbaijan, RussNeft, SIMONE Research Group, Socar Polymer, Tekfen Construction. The General Media Partner was Caspian Energy International Media Group. Caspian Oil & Gas exhibition was also supported by 71 the leading local and foreign news agencies, magazines and trade publications.

The total number of visitors exceeded 7000 of which 85% were the oil and gas experts. “The Azerbaijani market is extremely interesting and attractive”, this could be heard from many participants of the Oil & Gas exhibition, who held an average of about 8–9 business meetings a day at their stands. So, SIMONE Research Group company organized the seminar: “Optimum Gas Network Operation And Planning Using Simulation Software”.

On the same platform with Caspian Oil & Gas was held the 7th Caspian International Power and Alternative Energy Exhibition Caspian Power 2017. An important component of the exhibition was the 24th International Caspian Oil and Gas Conference, which took place from 1–2 June at the JW Marriott Absheron Baku hotel.

The organisers awarded certificates to sponsors, partners and exhibitors who stood out with their imaginative approaches to their work:

Best Corporate Style – Kerui
Best Stand Design – Russneft
Best Performance – UzbekNeftGaz
Best Shell Scheme – Belneftkhim
Best Customer Attraction – Turkish Petroleum
Most Creative Stand – National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC)
Most Attended Stand – TOTAL
Best Debut – TECHNOL
Most Original Stand – SOCAR
Best Stand Design – AKSA power generation
Best Corporate Style – AREA
Best Company Presentation –Baku Cable Goknur

The exhibitions organized by Iteca Caspian and its partner ITE Group. ITE Group’s network of offices involved in the project includes ITE London, ITE Moscow (Russia), EUF (Turkey), GIMA (Germany), ITE China, Caspian Event Management (UAE), ITE Poland and ITE Malaysia, actively attracting international companies to participate in the Azerbaijani exhibitions. Caspian Oil & Gas has the quality mark of the international exhibition community UFI, the Global Association of the Exhibition Industry. Receiving the UFI Approved Event mark demonstrates the exhibition’s compliance with international standards.

In 2018 the exhibitions will take place from 5 to 8 June at Baku Expo Center.

#CaspiaOilandGas #CaspianPower

References

Khadidja Babayeva, Assistant to the President of Global Energy Azerbaijan

“According to the established tradition, we take part in the International Caspian Oil & Gas Exhibition every year. This large-scale event is developing from year to year and demonstrates more efficient

organization level. The activity of the participants is constantly increasing, which positively affects the rating of the event. This leading event in the entire region's oil and gas industry provides an opportunity to demonstrate industry technologies and services and to establish interesting and useful business contacts".

Dominique Roussat, Senior Commercial Manager at Bos Shelf LLC

"We have been participating at the International Caspian Oil & Gas Exhibition since 2002. During this time we have managed to find a lot of clients and partners with whom we are doing business today. Thus, proceeding from our own experience, we can state that the exhibition attracts the attention of industry professionals every year, allowing us to establish profitable business relations. I would like to note the organization Caspian Oil & Gas 2017, which, as always, meets the highest standards".

James Simpson, Operations Manager, Rapid Solutions Azerbaijan

"I have attended numerous international exhibitions and I can assure you that Caspian Oil & Gas is among the best world expositions. It is vibrant, well-organized and popular, and its visitors are well-trained and highly intelligent people".