

IMAGE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

2024-2025 REPORT

Committee chair: Claudia Hackbarth

Committee members: Bob Fryklund, Jeffrey Shragge, Steve Sloan, Charles Sternbach

Board liaison: Jim White

Staff liaisons: Tom Agnew and Alan Wegener

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Now in its fifth year, IMAGE has firmly established itself as the premier integrated applied geophysics and geology conference and technical symposium. The IMAGE Oversight Committee remains committed to continuously enhancing the attendee experience through innovation, evaluation, and refinement of meeting components. These efforts contributed to another successful conference in 2025 and are laying the groundwork for future committees to continue advancing the IMAGE mission. This report summarizes key highlights and initiatives from IMAGE 2025.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM IMAGE 2025

This year's meeting achieved strong participation and global engagement:

- **7,897 attendees**
- **83 countries represented**
- **1,131 abstracts accepted** (out of 1,470 submitted)
- **292 program sessions** (163 oral, including 35 special sections; 129 poster sessions)
- **Additional highlights:**
 - o 17 postconvention workshops
 - o 2 panel discussions
 - o 6 luncheons
 - o 11 short courses
 - o 2 field trips
 - o 212 exhibitors
 - o New Technology Showcase
 - o Four pavilions: Digitalization, Carbon Management, Near-Surface, and Global Energy Opportunities

Facilitating Geophysics and Geology Integration

IMAGE continues to serve as a leading platform for uniting geoscience professionals across disciplines. For 2025, the abstract submission process was enhanced to collect improved metadata, allowing program organizers to identify opportunities for integrating geophysical and geological content across shared geographic and topical themes.

Expanded Poster Presentations

The IMAGE organizing committee continued to strengthen engagement with expanded poster sessions—both on the main exhibition floor and on the third level of the convention center. The increased co-location of related oral and poster sessions improved connectivity and visibility while creating additional presentation opportunities for researchers and early-career professionals.

Geothermal Hub

The Geothermal Hub returned this year with a strong focus on the future of sustainable energy. It featured live discussions, technical presentations, and technology showcases from industry and academia, emphasizing the synergy between oil and gas and geothermal resource development. Sessions explored integrated geologic and geophysical data collection and interpretation methodologies driving innovation in the geothermal sector.

Inaugural C-Suite Strategic Panel

This new initiative brought together senior industry and finance leaders to examine strategic challenges and opportunities in the upstream energy sector. Discussions addressed key questions such as:

- What is the long-term outlook for oil and gas in the evolving energy landscape?
- How can industry players best position themselves for success through the 2030s?
- How might U.S. companies expand internationally or reestablish global presence?
- What portfolio characteristics support optimal resilience and sustainability?
- How can organic and inorganic growth strategies reinforce these goals?

Executive Thought Leadership

For the second consecutive year, IMAGE featured an Executive Thought Leadership program designed to share industry perspectives on the future of geoscience. The opening panel—featuring executives from a major, an independent, and two global seismic providers—focused on managing increasingly complex reservoirs. The all-convention luncheon spotlighted a one-on-one conversation with an AAPG member and the Head of E&P at Petrobras, offering insight into the evolving direction of geoscience careers.

Planning for 2026

Discussions continue around optimizing future IMAGE events, including location and scheduling. Hosting IMAGE in Houston has consistently increased attendance and reduced exhibitor costs compared with rotating venues. While later dates in the year remain preferable, availability is limited due to strong convention center demand and modest hotel block usage. These logistical factors will remain a central consideration in planning for IMAGE 2026 and beyond.