

career focus: OIL & GAS

Pumped about Petroleum Show

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Sun Media

Calgary's Global Petroleum Show (GPS) will celebrate its 40th anniversary this year with a variety of new events, the latest and greatest developments in the oil and gas industry and, as usual, a ton of networking opportunities.

It's an ideal event for anyone involved in the oil and gas industry, or anyone who wants to get into the industry, says event director Wes Scott.

"What we're really focusing on this year is developing social networking programs," he says.

With an estimated 60,000

attendees, the event will feature a variety of technology and service providers, delegates from oil and gas companies and some of the most advanced and qualified professionals in the industry, Scott says.

"We have pavilions from Russia, the U.S., Korea, Germany ... for most big countries that are in oil and gas, there's a pavilion for them," Scott says.

One new initiative this year is the Global Petroleum Career

Exposition, Scott says.

"We've taken over the Telus Convention Centre to host companies from all over the world looking for employees — engineers, geologists, geophysicists, tradespeople and others — to work in any number of countries."

The Career Expo is a chance for tradespeople and university grads to browse new opportunities, Scott says.

The GPS Gala Dinner to celebrate the 40th anniversary is another fantastic opportunity to meet some important people, Scott says.

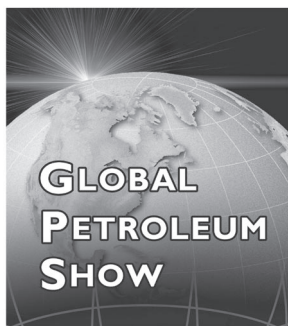
"It'll be another large social event," says Scott, of the four-course dinner and cham-

pagne reception. "There's a capacity for 1,000 people, and it'll be a really, really high class, five-star event with top entertainers."

Other new events this year include "a mini-Stampede" Bull Riders Invitational, and courses and seminars put on in conjunction with the Petroleum Technology Alliance Canada.

For more information, visit www.globalpetroleumshow.com

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CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA
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Help-wanted sign still out in oilpatch

Despite a recent slowdown in some areas of the oil and gas industry, it's still a great place to be looking for a job, says Ken Vinge, vice-president of recruiting at Bowen Staffing Services.

"We're seeing a little bit of a pause as the oil and gas industry works their way through what the royalty review means to them," he says. "But we're still seeing strong demand in pretty much every area."

One area that is suffering, though, is trades jobs and manual labour, says Brennan Wares, recruitment specialist at World Staffing Solutions.

"Jobs related to drilling, trades work, work on the oil rigs and general construction jobs — that has all slowed down," he says.

"It would be more difficult now to get those positions."

But in other areas, it appears business is still booming, especially people with five to 10 years of experience, says Wares.

"There weren't a lot of jobs in oil and gas 10 years ago because there was a downturn in the economy, so there aren't a lot of people in that category," he says.

"One of the greatest challenges is finding really experienced people," he says.

"In the next four or five years, with the baby boomers retiring en masse, it really is going to be about keeping those people."

But companies are always looking for new talent as well, says Wares.

— Delaney Seiferling

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