

***Gene Krantz of NASA and Luc Messier of ConocoPhillips  
to Speak at 40<sup>th</sup> Annual ECC Conference***

Sept. 3-6, 2008, at the Westin Keirland Resort in Scottsdale, AZ

*Program Will Address Industry Challenges Created by  
Unprecedented Level of Activity in Capital Projects Marketplace*

**HOUSTON – February 15, 2008** – The Engineering & Construction Contracting Association (ECC) has announced that **Gene Krantz, NASA’s mission controller for Apollo missions 11, 13 and 17**, and **Luc J. Messier, Senior Vice President, Project Development, ConocoPhillips**, will be keynote speakers at its 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. The conference program, which carries the theme “LIFTOFF! Launching Our Future Today,” will focus on the incredible industry challenges being created by an unprecedented level of activity in the capital projects marketplace.

This year’s opening keynote will be Gene Krantz looking at how the lessons learned 40 years ago on the Apollo Mission are being and can be applied to day, especially in a market where “Failure is not an Option”.

Luc Messier will bring a unique insight from his perspective as being head of Capital project for an owner, having come from leading a contracting firm (Technip), into how owners and contractors can move forward together.

The ECC is delighted to announce that one of last year’s lunchtime speakers, Michael Dudas, a Wall Street analyst for the E&C industry who commented on the soaring stock price of many EPCs and forecast which would continue to rise, is returning to up date his predictions!

The conference will feature panel sessions and forums that offer insight on how organizations must [RK1]adjust their strategies and practices to ensure success for today and tomorrow. Sessions will include:

- Today’s Vision – Tomorrow’s Reality?

- Leadership **and** Management = Success
- New Frontiers: New Technologies Coming to your Project

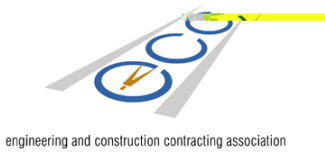
Anne-Marie Walters, chairperson of the Engineering & Construction Contracting (ECC) Association, said, “For four decades the ECC has provided the thought-leadership needed to help its members compete successfully in a marketplace that continues to be constrained by materials and engineering resource shortages, to become more global and competitive, but to also offer ever-more exciting and rewarding opportunities for those prepared to realize them. The seminars and panel sessions at this year’s conference will provide an invaluable perspective on the tools and techniques firms need to remain competitive and continue to grow.”

Added Walters, “We had a record 500 attendees at last year’s conference, and I am confident we will surpass that number this year in celebration of ECC’s 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.”

Attendees to last year’s conference, which was titled “Redefining Our Industry,” walked away with insight on solutions for collaboration (contracting models), innovation (technology), and organization (people). The program focused on ways to alleviate growing engineering resource shortages.

The annual ECC conference is the only forum that brings owners, contractors and suppliers together to learn about issues that affect today’s capital projects. It invites open discussion among these diverse parties so that each can present their very different perspectives and explain the factors that drive their decision making. This leads to:

- An exchange of ideas on critical issues
- An understanding of industry trends and key business drivers
- New views on business strategies and their impact on other parties in the supply chain
- A discussion of methods and practices that add real value to capital projects
- Strong relationship building
- An exciting, thought-provoking two-day experience



**For Immediate Release**  
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Registration for the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual ECC Conference will open in April 2008. For more information, visit [www.ecc-association.org](http://www.ecc-association.org).

### ***About the ECC***

The Engineering & Construction Contracting (ECC) Association ([www.ecc-conference.org](http://www.ecc-conference.org)), an affiliate of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), is an organization of owners, contractors and suppliers committed to improving the outcome of capital projects and improving the global competitiveness of all members. ECC activities serve the interests of a broad cross section of the process, refining, pharmaceutical and power industries as well as general manufacturing. The organization's annual conference, now in its 40<sup>th</sup> year, brings together approximately 500 key players from leading companies to discover better ways of improving capital project effectiveness. The ECC board of directors and sponsors include executives from leading companies including ABB, Aker Kvaerner, Aveva, BASF, BE&K, Bechtel, Bentley Systems, BP, CDI Business Solutions, CH2MHill, Chemstress, Commonwealth Engineering and Construction, ConocoPhillips, CVR Energy, The Dow Chemical Company, E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, Eastman, ENGlobal Engineering, ExxonMobil, Fluor, Inelectra, Intergraph, Jacobs, KBR, Merck & Co., Mustang, Pathfinder, LLC, Quantapoint, SNC-Lavalin, Technip, Trimble Navigation, Trinity Technologies, URS, Valero, Washington Group, WorleyParsons, Y&V, and Zachry Construction Corp.

***NOTE TO THE MEDIA:* The ECC will waive the conference fee for press members attending this year's conference. For press registration, please contact Tara Wilson at 713-337-1600 or [TWilson@EventsiaGroup.com](mailto:TWilson@EventsiaGroup.com).**

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