

PRESS RELEASE

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Clarion Events Acquires The Energy Exchange

Clarion Events have acquired The Energy Exchange (www.theenergyexchange.co.uk), the leading organiser of specialised conferences for senior oil and gas industry executives.

The acquisition extends Clarion's strategy of building a global B2B conference business in specialised vertical markets, complementing the recent acquisition of Synergy BV (serving the utilities market).

Piers Bearne, Chief Executive of Clarion Conferences, said, "The Energy Exchange Ltd, together with its sister brand, the World Refining Association, have established world leading events covering the upstream and downstream markets with conferences examining exploration and production, licensing and investment, transportation and refining, petrochemicals and gas, making it the broadest-based specialist organiser and conference producer in the oil and gas market. We are delighted that the company now has a strong position in biofuels and is expanding into global alternative energy, too. Above all, the multilingual team is a great asset as we support The Energy Exchange's growth in Europe, Russia and the CIS, the Middle East and Asia."

Vincent Sevilla, Founder and CEO of The Energy Exchange, said: "This is the beginning of an exciting new era for The Energy Exchange Ltd and the WRA. We are delighted to have the support and backing of the team at Clarion to take both our brands into new and developing markets within the global energy sector."

Tim Pilcher, COO of Clarion Events, added, "We are delighted to have completed our first acquisition just six weeks after the secondary buyout of Clarion by Veronis Suhler Stevenson. The Energy Exchange plays a major part in our buy and build strategy and the development of our global B2B conference business. The Energy Exchange will strengthen our position in the international energy and utilities market which we established with the acquisition of Synergy in October 2007."

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