

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MATE Selected as OTC Invited Organization**

RICHARDSON, Texas, U.S.A. (12 November 2003) – The Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Center has been selected as the 2004 Offshore Technology Conference's (OTC) invited organization.

Founded in 1997, the MATE Center is a national network of community colleges, high schools, universities, research institutions, marine industries, professional societies, and working professionals. Its goal is to improve marine technical education and to help prepare the nation's future workforce for ocean-related occupations. The MATE Center is located in Monterey, California, U.S.A. and funded by the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Advanced Technological Education.

The MATE Center supports, enhances, and expands marine technology education through:

- Supporting institutions interested in developing or improving marine technology programs.
- Developing curricula and career awareness.
- Offering faculty development for educators focused on marine technology.
- Conducting regional and national ROV (remotely operated vehicle) competitions to increase students' learning experiences and build academic and employer partnerships.
- Conducting a National MATE Internship Program that provides students with shore-based and at-sea technical experiences.
- Hosting an ocean career Web site.
- Disseminating MATE products, including curricula, textbooks, occupational guidelines, competencies, and process guides.

Since its inception, OTC has been operated by 12 sponsoring organizations. Each organization is a technical society consisting of professionals who work in the oil and gas industry. In addition, every year the OTC Program Committee selects an invited organization that further supports that year's theme and objectives.

"MATE was a perfect choice for the 2004 OTC," said Skipper Strong, OTC '04 Program Chair.

"Currently, members of MATE are working together to research and develop innovations to reach depths before thought inconceivable by the offshore community. We expect that they'll bring a new and interesting dynamic to OTC's program and atmosphere."

OTC takes place 3-6 May at Reliant Center at Reliant Park in Houston. For more information about OTC, including the new OTC Papers Online, visit [www.OTCnet.org/2004](http://www.OTCnet.org/2004).

Founded in 1969, the Offshore Technology Conference is the world's foremost event for the development of offshore resources in the fields of drilling, exploration, production, and environmental protection. OTC is held annually at Reliant Center in Houston. For more information, visit [www.OTCnet.org](http://www.OTCnet.org).

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