

Session
Presenter



Mike Lowder

Director of Process
Engineering

Eastman Chemical Company

**41st
Annual
ECC
Conference**

**September 9 - 12, 2009
Hyatt Lost Pines Resort
Bastrop, Texas**



The Perfect Storm

Navigating Through the Turbulence of Risk and Change

Plenary Conference Session 1

Same Storm, Different Ships: Will Owners Plot a New Course?

Bio

Mike Lowder is currently the Director of Process Engineering at Eastman Chemical Company headquartered in Kingsport, TN. He has a BS in Chemical Engineering from North Carolina State University and an MBA from East Tennessee State University. He is a licensed engineer in the State of Tennessee.

Mike has 30 years of service with Eastman. During his first 20 years he focused on engineering/ construction/ operations as a design engineer, an operations engineer, a project engineer, and a project manager for numerous capital projects. He was project manager or assistant project manager on three major projects (including a green-field PET plant in Cosoleacaque, Mexico). He has served as Department Manager of a group of project managers executing a portfolio of capital projects at the Kingsport site as well as manager of the Kingsport Plant Engineering Department.

Mike left the Engineering world in 1998 for a move to Corporate Strategy. In 1999 he was asked to perform manufacturing due-diligence and integration for Eastman's first major acquisition. This experience led to the responsibility for overall integration management for two subsequent acquisitions (including one in the Czech Republic). Upon completion of the third integration in late 2001 he proposed (and received approval for) formation of a formal Program Office that would plan and manage complex business projects with the same discipline as that used for capital projects. He led that organization from its formation in January 2002 until April 1, 2007

As Director of the Program Office Mike was responsible for a group of up to ten project managers that lead special projects for the corporation. The Program Office plans and executes critical and complex projects such as:

- Due Diligence for acquisitions and planning for Day 1 activities following an acquisition close
- The integration of acquisitions
- Transition services for acquisitions / divestitures
- Site closures
- Special business studies
- Any project that involves the coordination of multiple corporate organizations that do not normally work together.

In 2007 Mike returned to E&C as Director of Process Engineering where he is responsible for approximately 120 personnel in six groups (one Plant Design, two Chemical Engineering, one Advanced Controls, and two Mechanical Engineering). These personnel provide both Front End Engineering for new plants and technical support for existing operations.

Mike and his wife Brenda live in Johnson City with their two labs, Jake and Rebel. Their son Matt is a rising junior in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Tennessee.

