

Press release

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Prestigious Michael L. Michelsen Award presented to Ioannis G. Economou

Professor Ioannis G. Economou is the awardee of the **2026 EFCE Michael L. Michelsen Award**. The EFCE Working Party on Thermodynamics and Transport Properties selected Ioannis Economou for his internationally renowned research which combines in depth knowledge of molecular thermodynamics with a variety of applications across materials, energy, and environmental engineering (e.g., CO₂ capture, green solvents, MOFs, ionic liquids, pharmaceuticals, and shale gas technologies). The award also recognizes his great commitment to the EFCE Working Party on Thermodynamics and Transport Properties, as its founding member and first Chair, and his strong commitment to education and training in thermodynamics and transport properties in chemical engineering, in Greece, Qatar and internationally. Coinciding with the 20th anniversary of the Working Party founded in 2006, it is especially significant that the prize is awarded to its first Chair and co-founder.



He said: "I am truly honored by this recognition from our EFCE Working Party, which I gladly accept."

Ioannis G. Economou is Professor of Chemical Engineering at Texas A&M University at Qatar and currently serves as Executive Director of Research and Graduate Studies. Trained in chemical engineering in Greece (Diploma, National Technical University of Athens) and the USA (PhD, The Johns Hopkins University), he has held academic and research leadership roles in Greece, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar, with additional visiting appointments worldwide and extensive industry consulting.

His research focuses on developing and validating molecular thermodynamic models to support sustainable process design in the oil & gas, chemical, and pharmaceutical sectors (e.g., gas separation, CO₂ capture, shale gas, green solvents, aqueous systems, and advanced materials such as MOFs, polymers, ionic liquids, and membranes). He has led numerous funded projects, supervised many graduate students and postdocs, published 250 peer-reviewed papers, co-edited a Wiley book on natural gas processing (2019), and serves as Editor of *Fluid Phase Equilibria*. He is a fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE).

Nominating him for the Award, Professor Jean-Charles de Hemptinne wrote: "Professor Economou's career spans decades of groundbreaking research, leadership, and service to the chemical engineering community. His pioneering work in molecular thermodynamics has bridged the gap between fundamental science and industrial applications, addressing critical societal challenges such as energy transition, circular economy, and CO₂ management. ... Beyond his remarkable academic achievements, Professor Economou has demonstrated dedication to fostering collaboration and knowledge dissemination. He was instrumental in founding the EFCE Working Party on Thermodynamics and Transport Properties and served as its inaugural chairman from 2007 to 2013. Under his leadership, the Working Party grew to include 41 members from 24 countries, reflecting his vision of a united, global chemical engineering community."

Ioannis Economou has been invited to present a plenary lecture on 10 May at the opening of the 34th European Symposium on Applied Thermodynamics - ESAT 2026 which will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, on 10-13 May 2026.

The 2026 Michael L. Michelsen Awardee is generously sponsored by **AVEVA**.



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The **Michael L. Michelsen Award** - previously called Distinguished Lecture on Thermodynamics and Transport Properties and re-named in recognition of its second laureate, the distinguished Professor Michael L. Michelsen (Denmark) - aims to honour a senior member of the community that is active in a European institution. The award is presented every two years by the EFCE Working Party on Thermodynamics and Transport Properties.

Ends

Related links

EFCE media centre (<http://www.efce.info/News>)

34th European Symposium on Applied Thermodynamics - ESAT 2026
(<https://esat-2026.sci-meet.net/>)

EFCE Working Party on Thermodynamics and Transport Properties
(https://efce.info/WP_TTP)

Notes to media:

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About chemical engineers

Chemical, biochemical and process engineering is the application of science, maths and economics to the process of turning raw materials into everyday products. Professional chemical engineers design, construct and manage process operations all over the world. Oil and gas, pharmaceuticals, food and drink, synthetic fibres and clean drinking water are just some of the products where chemical engineering plays a central role.

About EFCE

Founded in 1953, The European Federation of Chemical Engineering (EFCE) is a non-profit-making association, whose object is to promote co-operation in Europe between non-profit-making professional scientific and technical societies in 30 countries for the general advancement of chemical engineering and as a means of furthering the development of chemical engineering. See www.efce.org