



Panelists



Mike Complita is a Principal at Elliott Bay Design Group and serves as the Vice President of Strategic Expansion. He is focused on developing major growth opportunities for the firm including the advancement of alternative fuels in vessel design as well as non-conventional maritime applications.

As a professionally licensed engineer with 30 years of industry experience, Mike has an in-depth understanding of all facets of naval architecture and marine engineering including optimization of vessel construction as well as long term operation. He oversees design, repair and analysis projects and has been a major contributor to many of the industry's most significant projects including the M/V HYDROGEN ONE, the world's first methanol reforming hydrogen fuel cell powered towboat.

Mike frequently speaks at industry events around the nation on safety, cost of implementation and operation, and other aspects of the maritime industry's transition to alternative fuels. He is presently leading a team working to develop and construct a cost-effective option for ports and harbors to reduce emissions from ships at anchor and to fast charge electric harbor craft actively working in the field.



Elvis Ebikade is a Senior Sustainable Fuel Consultant at Southwest Airlines where he leads new Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) offtake opportunities and engages on SAF policy and logistics developments on our pathway to net zero. He leverages his technical expertise in low carbon fuels and biomass valorization to assess offtake opportunities, evaluating their technology readiness, policy landscape, infrastructure requirements, economics considering Southwest Airlines SAF portfolio and net-zero goals.

He is an internationally experienced chemical engineer with a 10+ years' experience developing innovating technologies for upcycling food and agricultural waste into low carbon fuels and chemicals. He has published >10 research articles and filed 2 patents on biomass valorization as a graduate researcher in the Catalysis Center for Energy Innovation, University of Delaware. There, he also co-founded a bio-based startup company (Lignolix) manufacturing renewable and high-performance specialty chemicals from woody biomass.

Prior to his current role, Elvis worked at the Boston Consulting Group, performing market analysis, and evaluating competitive landscape for waste circularity and biofuel projects across agriculture and energy industries. Elvis has a B.Sc. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Lagos, Nigeria, an M.Sc., and Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Delaware.



Mike Gaffney, Pasha Hawaii

Mr. Gaffney is a graduate of the United States Merchant Marine Academy. His experiences include Corporate Energy Management Consultant, Energy Management Training Consultant and Instructor, Lead Energy Auditor, Technical Fleet Manager for eleven Military Sealift Command ships, Port Engineer for several shipping companies, and Chief Engineer on numerous ships. Over the past 15 years, Mr. Gaffney has been focusing his efforts on maritime energy management on ships and shipping terminals. He is a Certified Energy Manager, Certified Energy Auditor, Certified Power Quality Professional, and President of the Southeastern Virginia Association of Energy Engineers chapter. He currently supports Pasha Hawaii and The Pasha Group with technical and energy management on their terminals and ships.



Sam Schabacker leads the University of California's (UC) biomethane program. UC is the largest voluntary buyer of RNG in the country. Sam oversees UC's biomethane processing plant, negotiates RNG procurement contracts, and spearheads UC's policy engagement on biogas at the state and federal levels.

Moderator



Ian Gansler is the Manager of Energy, Resilience, and Sustainability Policy for the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), America's trade association representing public seaports in Washington, DC. In his role, he advocates for the port industry's environmental and energy resilience goals. He lobbied the federal government for over \$2 billion in port infrastructure funding in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and \$3 billion for the new Clean Ports Program funded by the Inflation Reduction Act. Ian has a Master of Public Policy degree from the Georgetown McCourt School of Public Policy.