CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

SMRI SPRING 2026

EDINBURGH | SCOTLAND

APRIL 26 - 29

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

All times in Central European Standard Time (CEST)

Saturday, 25 April

8:00 AM–12:30 PM	**RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING**
1:00 AM–4:30 PM	**LEADERSHIP MEETING**

Sunday, 26 April

8:00 AM–5:00 PM	**SMRI TECHNICAL CLASS:** Basic Logging Operations *Optional with additional charge;* *repeated from Fall 2025 Conference*
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM	**WELCOME EVENT ICEBREAKER**

Monday, 27 April

8:00 AM–10:00 AM	**BUSINESS MEETING** *Members Only*
10:30 AM–5:00 PM	**TECHNICAL PAPER PRESENTATIONS**
10:00 AM–12:30 PM	**FRIENDS & SPOUSES WALKING TOUR**
6:30 PM–10:00 PM	**MONDAY EVENING NETWORKING EVENT** *Optional; additional charge*

Tuesday, 28 April

8:00 AM–5:00 PM	**TECHNICAL PAPER PRESENTATION**
10:00 AM–3:00 PM	**FRIENDS & SPOUSES CASTLE TOUR**

Wednesday, 29 April

6:45 AM–7:30 PM	**FIELD TRIP 1:** *DNV Spadeadam Facil & Roman Museum*
7:45 AM–5:00 PM	**FIELD TRIP 2:** *Siccar Point with Professor Mark Wilkinson & University of Edinburgh*

CONTACT

CONFERENCE ASSISTANCE

SMRI Membership Issues

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REGISTRATION INFORMATION

IN-PERSON ATTENDEES

All conference attendees must be in the SMRI database and register online in advance, with payment required for confirmation. Non-technical guests must be registered as "guests" before finalizing the online payment. Event space is limited. The delegate registration fee includes access to Sunday Icebreaker, AM/PM breaks, and Monday and Tuesday lunches. Registering after 3 April incurs a $250 additional charge, subject to space availability.

REMOTE ATTENDEES

SMRI plans to broadcast the Edinburgh meeting in a hybrid format. The same platform as previous events will be used, and details will be shared closer to the conference date. Virtual attendees must register separately with a link on the registration page. The remote delegate registration fee is the same as in-person rates, covering live feed broadcast, on-demand videos, and a file of all presented papers. Register before 17 April to avoid additional $250 charge. *The Technical Class will be live-streamed only and not available on-demand afterward.*

Conference Pricing

MEMBER COST: $725
($600 w/o Monday Night Event)

NON-MEMBER COST: $1,225
($1,100 w/o Monday Night Event)

Discounts available for Class Instructors and one Speaker per paper. University students contact René Schneider (Rschneider@solutionmining.org) for information about discounted registration.

Registration Dates

18 FEBRUARY
Member registration begins

11 MARCH
Non-member registration begins

3 APRIL
Registration ends;
no refunds after this date

HOTEL & TRAVEL DETAILS

CONFERENCE HOTEL

Radisson Blu Hotel, Edinburgh City Centre
80 High Street, The Royal Mile
Edinburgh EH1 1TH, Scotland, UK

CLICK TO BOOK HOTEL

SMRI RATE £215.00
SMRI room block available from 21 April to 1 May

RESERVATION
Number of adults defaults to 2. Special Rates-Promotional Code and Add: **SMRI2026**

SECONDARY HOTEL

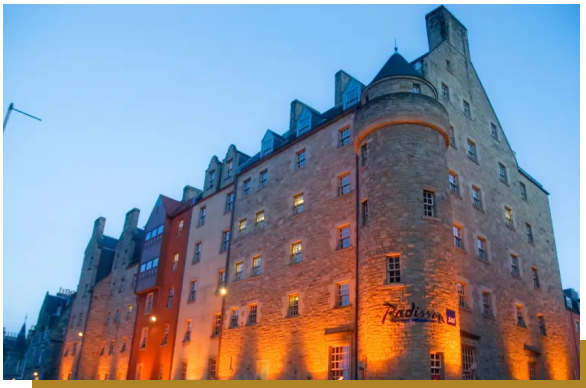
Hilton Edinburgh Carlton
19 North Bridge
Edinburgh, EH1 1SD, Scotland, UK

SMRI RATE £230.00
SMRI room block available from 24 April to 1 May

CLICK TO BOOK HOTEL

AIRPORT

Edinburgh Airport (EDI) is the main international airport to Edinburgh, Scotland.



United Kingdom's Electronic Travel Authorization (UK ETA)

All US, CA, & EU citizens must apply for an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) before traveling to the UK. You may need your ETA number when booking flights. Apply in advance or check if you are exempt: **https://uketa.com**

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SPRING 2026 SPONSORS

Sponsorships help defray costs of hosting conferences, keep conference fees affordable, and allow more of member dues to be directed towards active research. Members or non-members may be sponsors. Sponsorship information is available online at this link, or contact Rachel Cunningham (*rcunningham@solutionmining.org* or 713-724-3342) for more information. No commercial advertising is accepted, but SMRI will acknowledge contributions of all sponsors.

Thank you to our sponsors of the Spring 2026 Edinburgh Conference!

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TECHNICAL CLASS INFORMATION

TECHNICAL CLASS

Basic Logging Operations for Salt Cavern Development

SUNDAY, 26 APRIL | 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

The Technical Class, typically held on Sunday prior to the Technical Session, is designed to be an introductory course or refresher course for the variety of disciplines and management levels that work in the solution mining environment and with solution mined caverns. "Basic Logging Operations for Salt Cavern Development" was chosen as the topic for the Technical Class for Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 based on a survey by SMRI leadership to members.

The SMRI has continued to be a leader in solution mining concepts with many research projects and technical presentations over the past 50 years. To outline this historical knowledge and provide further insight into these concepts, the SMRI has proposed a tentative list of topics for the Technical Class including:

- Overview of Logging Needs for Salt Cavern Development
- Logging for:
  - Geological Consideration
  - Drilling Phase
  - Solution Mining Phase
  - Completion, Operation, and Abandonment phases
- Composite Log Overview
- Overall Geologic Evaluation

Technical Class Registration Fees

MEMBERS
$400

MEMBER REGULATOR
$250

NON-MEMBERS
$650

NON-MEMBER REGULATORS*
$400

STUDENTS (SUBJECT TO SPACE)
*No Charge

The class schedule allows ample time for the topic, questions, and open discussion during session. It also provides opportunities to continue conversations with peers during included coffee breaks and lunch.

FUTURE CONFERENCES

Fall 2026
27-30 Sept
West Yellowstone, MT, USA

Spring 2027
25-28 April
Lyon, France

Fall 2027
26-29 Sept
Corpus Christi, TX, USA

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WELCOME EVENT

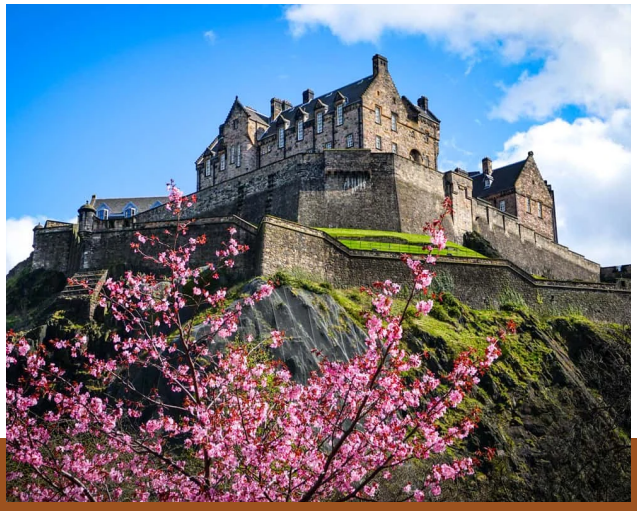
Sunday, 26 April | 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Enjoy an evening event, networking with new and familiar faces before the conference begins on Monday. The evening will feature beer, wine, soft drinks, coffee, and appetizers. The Icebreaker is complimentary for registered delegates. Guests must register for a $75 fee.

MONDAY EVENING NETWORKING EVENT

Monday, 27 April | 6:30 - 10:00 pm *(optional)*
$125/person | Max. 300 guests

Discover Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh's Science Centre and Planetarium, where you can experience the epic story of our planet through immersive, hands-on exhibits. Set against the dramatic backdrop of Edinburgh's Sailsbury Crags, this remarkable venue offers guests private, after-hours access to explore millions of years of Earth's history: explore the depths of the ocean, experience the chill of an iceberg and travel to a tropical rainforest. Enjoy a buffet dinner and drinks as you mingle, explore, and connect in this inspiring environment. Dress smart-casual for an evening of discovery and conversation. Dynamic Earth is a short walk from the Radisson Blu Hotel, with shuttle service available beginning at 6:15 PM.



FRIENDS & SPOUSES

Royal Mile Walking Tour

Monday, 27 April – 10:00 AM-12:30 PM

Enjoy a lively and insightful stroll down Edinburgh's iconic Royal Mile, guided by a Scottish native who brings the city's history to life. From the towering ramparts of Edinburgh Castle to the grand gates of Holyrood Palace, you'll discover stories of royalty, power, innovation, and the colorful characters who shaped this remarkable city. Expect a blend of laughter and lore as your guide pairs rich historical knowledge with engaging storytelling. The tour will be outdoors, so please dress for all weather conditions. After the tour, enjoy leisure time to find your perfect Scottish souvenir.

15 persons max. $35 per person.

Edinburgh Castle Tour & Afternoon Tea

Tuesday, 28 April – 10:00 PM-3:00 PM

Join us for a memorable visit to Edinburgh Castle, where history comes alive through an engaging audio tour of the castle's storied halls. Headsets will be provided, or you may use your own.

While amidst the castle you will relax in the elegant Tea Rooms at Crown Square and savor a delightful afternoon tea amid the castle's timeless charm. Feel like royalty as you enjoy exquisite savory and sweet treats paired with breathtaking views of Scotland's most iconic landmark.

Please wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather. If you have strict dietary requirements, please email Rachel Cunningham in advance so Edinburgh Castle can be notified prior to your arrival.

15 persons max. $85 per person.

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WEDNESDAY TECHNICAL FIELD TRIPS

FIELD TRIP 1

DNV Spadeadam Facility & Roman Museum

MAX CAPACITY: 50 *(register early)*

COST: $125 *(all inclusive of transportation from/to hotel to the facilities, guided tours, lunch)*

ANTICIPATED TIME: 6:45 AM–7:30 PM

This trip will depart the hotel early Wednesday morning for a day filled with technical and historical content. A ride through the Scottish landscape will bring participants to the beautiful borders region between Scotland and England. Here the group will spend time at the Houseteads roman museum, which is located at the UNESCO world heritage site, Hadrian's Wall. Hadrian's wall is the largest Roman Archaeological feature in northern England running 73 miles and is a part of the frontier of Roman empire that encompassed much of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa.

Participants will then have a short bus ride to the DNV Spadeadam research and development facility where they will enjoy lunch and a guided tour of the facility. Included within the tour will be three spectacular large-scale demonstrations of gas explosions including:

- Explosion Chamber – 5kg of propane mixed with air and ignited in a confined and congested steel chamber
- Large Jet Fire – 70barg natural gas jet fire from a 20mm orifice
- Hydrogen Detonation – 500g of hydrogen mixed with air and detonated using an explosive.

The facility utilizes the explosions for hazard awareness training courses to provide real life exposure to allow people to make decisions and preparations for potential accidents. Additional research and development topics in hydrogen safety, carbon capture, and natural gas infrastructure may be discussed.

Weather in Scotland can be variable, and so we recommend wearing layers and comfortable closed shoes suitable for walking indoors and outdoors.

FIELD TRIP 2

Siccar Point with Professor Mark Wilkinson & University of Edinburgh

MAX CAPACITY: 50 *(register early)*

COST: $75 *(all inclusive of transportation from/to hotel to the facilities, guided tours, lunch)*

ANTICIPATED TIME: 7:45 AM–5:00 PM

Join us for a field visit to the iconic Siccar Point, one of the most celebrated geological sites in the world. First recognised by James Hutton in the 18th century, Siccar Point provides a dramatic and elegant illustration of foundational concepts in modern geology. The visit will be hosted by Professor Mark Wilkinson, whose insights will bring the landscape and its scientific legacy to life. After the visit to Siccar Point and lunch, we will continue with an exclusive tour of leading Research facilities in Edinburgh.

At the FlowAVett Wave facility, attendees will see scaled models that simulate system fluid dynamics and wave interactions. This unique resource bridges theory and real-world behaviour in hydraulic and structural environments. Next will be the Applied Geoscience labs of the University of Edinburgh, which supports research in sedimentology, geochemistry, and geomechanics. You'll see instrumentation used for sample characterisation, imaging, and testing that underpins research into Earth processes and subsurface systems. Finally, we will tour the University's Structures and Materials Test Facilities, before returning to the Radisson. These labs facilitate experiments using advanced testing equipment fundamental to understanding geological materials.

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TECHNICAL PAPER LIST

Author(s)	Organization(s)	Title
Carsten Braun[1], S. Grosswig[2]	Exal Technology GmbH[1], GESO GmbH[2]	Weight Monitoring System for Production Strings
Janiche Beeder[1], Silvan Hoth[1], Roald K. Nilsen[1], Nicole Dopffel[2], Ann-Stepec Biwen[2], Gregoire Hevin[3]	Equinor ASA[1], NORCE[2], Storengy[3]	From Dormant to Dominant: Hydrogen Driven Microbial Changes in Salt Cavern EZ53 Results from the HyPSTER Project
T. Bertram[1], B. Colcombet[2] , T. Koopmans[3]	Augwind[1], Geostock[2], Mole Underground[3]	Use Case: Cavern selection considerations for Air Battery at Hill Top site, UK
Tobias Baumann[1], Joyce Schmatz[2], Benoit Brouard[3], Maximillian Kottwitzz[1], Richard Bakker[4], Marinus den Hartogh[4]	smartTectonics GmbH[1], MAP GmbH[2], Brouard Consulting[3], Nobian Industrial Chemicals BV[4]	Constraining Creep Properties of Rock Salt Across the Scales: implications for Cavern Abandonment and Subsidence Prediction
Matthew W. Bauer[1 2], Brandon Lampe[1], Kaitlyn Manalili[1 2], Baris Ates[1]	Agapito Associates[1], LLC; Colorado School of Mines[2]	SaltPy: Open-Source Sonar Survey Processing for Solution-Mined Caverns
T.A. Chorus[1], V.J. de Ruiter[2], Dr. R. Stax[2], R. Mastaler[2], T. Tjeerdema[2]	Well Engineering Partners[1], K+S Ak.[2]	Design and Execution Experience with a High-Inclination, Large-Diameter Well for Deep Salt Cavern development
Jubier Alonso Jiménez-Camargo[1], Laura Blanco-Martín[2] , Michel Bornert[1], Patrick Aimedieu[1]	ENPC[1], Mines Paris[2]	Microfracture Development in Rock Salt Under Unconfined and Confined Loading Assessed by X-ray Microtomography
Nicole Dopffel[1], K. Cerna[2], J. Riha[2], P. Bombach[3], S. Rad[4], S. Stephan[4], J. Tremosa[5], A. Belcour[6], M. Baumgartner[6], D. Ropers	NORCE[1], TUL[2], Isodetect[3], BRGM[4], Geostock[5], INRIA[6]	Investigation of Microbial Presence, Diversity and Activity in 21 European Salt Caverns – Implications for Hydrogen Storage
Hippolyte Djizanne[1], Djimedo Kondo[2], Long Cheng[3], Dirk Zapf[4]	INERIS[1], Sorbonne University[2], ENSG[3], IUB[4]	Research on Fracture Initiation and Propagation After Abandonment of Salt Caverns
Tobias Fabig, Grit Asmussen-Günther, Jhonatan Sosa Gomez	IfG GmbH	Numerical Investigation of Cavern Field Behavior under Mixed and Non-Parallel Storage Cycles
Justin Gouveia, Clinton Moss, Georgy Rassadkin	Gunnar Energy Services	Field Results from Magnetic Ranging-Guided Well Intercepts in Solution Mining Wellfields
Hajar Habbani[1], Feline Körner[2], Hippolyte Djizanne[1], Dirk Zapf[2], Amade Pouya[3]	INERIS[1], IGtH - Hannover[2], ENPC[3]	Experimental and Numerical Investigation of Fracturing in Rock Salt for Underground Storage Cavern Design
J.F. Harrington[1], C.M. Fletcher[1], J. Thompson[1], T.B. Armitage[1], K.A. Daniels[2], S.M. Palling[3], E. Shoemark-Banks[4], E. Hough[1]	British Geological Survey[1], Cardiff University[2], STFC Boulby USF[3], Formerly STFC Boulby USF[4]	Laboratory-Based Characterisation of a Permian Evaporitic Sequence: a Case Study from Boulby Mine, NE England

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Author(s)	Organization(s)	Title
Erik Hemstad[1], Chris Johnson[1], Erik Walega[1], Elmar Goldsmith[1], Braydon Lefebvre[2]	RESPEC[1], Nutrien LTD.[2]	Evaluation and Optimization of Potash Production at the Patience Lake Solution Mine
Christopher McMichael[1], Sean Reynolds, Jamie Slingsby[2], Ben Mason[2]	AtkinsRéalis[1], SSE Thermal[2]	Life Extension of Natural Gas Storage Facility through use of Downhole Straddles to Maintain Well Integrity
Maurice Schlichtenmayer[1], Michael Glöckner[1], Andreas Bannach[1], Hippolyte Djizanne[2], Grégoire Hévin[3]	ESK[1], INERIS[2], Storengy[3]	Enhanced Hydrogen Storage Models and Operational Cases Based on Field Test Data
Sandro John, Markús Bruning	K-UTEC	New Developments and Methods in Salt Exploration – Integrated Seismic and Electromagnetic investigation of Salt Structures
Patrick Schmüth[1], Patryk Tomaszewski[2]	Uniper GmbH[1], AtkinsRéalis[2]	The Salinae Hydrogen Storage Project
Rui Song, Jinajun Liu, Chunhe Yang	Institute of Rock and Soil Mechanics, Chinese Academy of Sciences	Advances and challenges in underground hydrogen storage applications in China
Jan TerHeege[1], José León González Acosta[1], Santiago Peña Clavijo[1], Hermínio Tasinafo Honório[1], Gaurav Jain[1 2], Brecht Wassing[1], Peter Fokker[1]	TNO[1], Utrecht University[2]	Effects of Creep Characteristics on Land Subsidence above Salt Solution Mining Caverns
James Kidd, Franck Turmel-Josek, Paul Snary	Storengy UK	Fast-Cycling Underground Gas Storage: Insights from Stublach and Hydrogen Storage Implications
Nikolaus Weber, Dirk Zander-Schiebenhoefer, Fritz Crotogino, Heike Bernhardt	DEEP.KBB GmbH	Development of Guidelines for Salt Cavern Abandonment in Germany
Georgios Yfantis[1], Ana Libreros Bertini[1], Andy Sloan[2]	Züblin[1], MWEM Services Ltd[2]	Well Cement Simulation Battle: Mohr Coulomb VS Concrete Damage Plasticity

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TECHNICAL CLASS SCHEDULE

Time	Instructor	Title	Objectives
8:00	**Technical Class Introduction: Tim Bauer/Nils Skaug**		
8:10	René Schneider *DEEP.KBB*	**Logging Needs for Salt Cavern Development**	Overview of the basic logging needs and requirements for cavern development and why.
9:15	Karim Sabaa *BAKER HUGHES Inc.*	**Logs for Geological Characterization – Part I & II**	• Introduction • Gamma Ray/Spectral Gamma Ray • Caliper • Resistivity • Bulk Density • Neutron Porosity • Acoustic • Borehole Imaging • Rotary Coring • Deep Shear Wave Imaging
10:00	**MID-MORNING BREAK: Coffee/Tea, Refreshments (15 Mins)**		
10:15	Karim Sabaa *BAKER HUGHES*	**Logs for Geological Characterization – Part III**	Selected solid-liquid phase equilibria examples and application.
11:30	Vincent Barrère *GEOSTOCK*	**Logs for the Drilling Phase**	• Caliper • Surveying • MWD/Geosteering / LWD • Borehole Imaging Techniques
12:00	**LUNCH BREAK: Included with Class Registration (1 Hour)**		
1:00	Frank Hasselkus *SOCON*	**Logs for the Solution-Mining Phase**	• Interface measurements • CCL/Multiple CCL/Natural Gamma for tie-in point • Sonar MIT (SoMIT) • Cavern shape measurements (Sonar Surveys)
1:45	Steven Patzer *ESK*	**Logging Operations for Completion, Operation and Abandonment**	• Ultra Sonic • Flux Leakage • Casing Inspections – Multi-finger caliper • Bond Logs • Fiber OPTIC DTS
2:30	Zachary Evans *DARK VISION*	**High Resolution Ultrasonic Logging Updates**	High Resolution Ultrasonic Logging Tools
3:00	**MID-AFTERNOON BREAK: Coffee/Tea, Refreshments (30 Mins)**		
3:30	Benoit Brouard *BROUARD CONSULTING*	**Special Topics/Non-intrusive Logging**	• Logging without wireline: • Interface depth measurement • Damaged/Lost casing detection
4:00	TBA *BRASKEM*	**Geologic Evaluation Including Monitoring**	Integration of Logs, Seismic, VSP, Microseismic Monitoring
4:30	Kiko Friguglietti *Sabine Storage & Operations, Inc.*	**Composite Log Evaluation**	Comparative Evaluation of Logs for Wells
5:30	**Tim Bauer: Technical Class Concluding Remarks**		