

Forrest Burkholder

SAExploration

Forrest Burkholder is the President and CEO of SAExploration, a global seismic services company, where he has served since 2011. With nearly four decades of international experience in the seismic industry, Forrest has built a career that spans field operations, operational leadership, and executive management.

Beginning his career in 1986, Forrest developed deep technical and operational expertise through hands-on field work with companies such as Datum/Norcan, Polaris, Western Geophysical, and Veritas. His early career saw him working in challenging environments around the world, including land, heli-portable, and marine seismic acquisition projects. This extensive field background laid the foundation for a leadership style grounded in operational excellence and a people-first approach.

Since joining SAExploration, Forrest has advanced through roles of increasing responsibility—from General Manager to Vice President of Operations, then Executive Vice President of Operations, before being appointed President and CEO. Throughout his tenure, he has been known for driving innovation, improving operational efficiency, and leading high-performance teams in complex and dynamic settings.

Forrest's professional development includes executive education at INSEAD Business School and more than 20 years of field-based learning. He combines technical mastery with strategic leadership to guide organizations through growth, transformation, and operational success.

Forrest continues to lead SAExploration with a commitment to safety, innovation, and global excellence, operating some of the most complex, challenging, and cutting edge seismic projects ever, always prioritizing safety, innovation, and customer results.

