DIERS Foresight Committee
April 29, 2026, Technical Meeting Poll Results

A poll of participants on April 29, 2026, at the DIERS Technical Meeting was conducted using a survey tool - Slido. The purposes of the poll were to (1) assess perceptions of DIERS' current state, including strengths and gaps, and (2) gather input on the preferred future state for DIERS' long-term sustainability. Forty-six (46) out of forty-nine (49) participants were engaged in the poll, with an average of thirty-nine (39) responses per question. This document provides an interpretation of the results along with recommended next steps. Bar charts summarizing the poll results and qualitative responses to poll questions are included below the discussion.

Observations

Most importantly, the replies to the poll are biased by only polling the most engaged DIERS members (the ~23% of the paid membership that attends the virtual meetings). It should not be surprising that 53% replied with very valuable and extremely valuable. Polling a more representative sample will likely result in a different distribution of responses. Next steps should include surveying members that do not attend the meetings and do not participate in technical projects.

DIERS is perceived as technically strong in its core domains (Q2) but currently constrained by the lack of practical, tool-based delivery mechanisms that make its knowledge easily usable in engineering workflows (Q3 and Q8). DIERS already owns relief system design, multiphase flow modeling, and runaway reaction analysis (Q2). A weakness is the accessibility and general availability of practical tools and methods to easily apply the knowledge that already exists (Q3 and Q8). In summary, currently DIERS is strong in established engineering domains (Q2) but not sufficiently translating DIERS knowledge into usable engineering workflows, i.e., the technology is operationally difficult to deploy at scale (Q3 and Q8).

But DIERS is facing expanding and more complex future problem spaces (Q4), needing stronger research capacity to address them (Q6). The lower rating of "complex multiphase systems" (Q4) represents its competition with higher impact macro trends rather than existing strengths/weaknesses of DIERS technologies. Stronger technical research and development (Q6) indicates a need for knowledge creation to address the emerging macro trends.

Responses to questions 2, 3, 6, and 8 regarding education and training must distinguish between perceived value, system gaps, and engagement drivers. Training as currently delivered is not the primary way members extract value (Q2), but it was made clear that training is important. A system gap though is that knowledge is not effectively transferred (Q3). Training is one mechanism to deliver knowledge, but the comments indicate a broader problem of fragmentation, lack of structure, and poor accessibility. Training as a strategic lever is one approach to addressing systemic gaps (Q6), but training alone will not increase member engagement (Q8).

DIERS value is experienced today as an organization that provides influence on industry standards organizations and networking opportunities (Q2) and should continue to function as a trusted technical community in the future (Q5). But to sustain that role it must invest in ongoing technical research and

development and in education and certification to develop and transfer new knowledge (Q6). These responses are consistent when considered in terms of what DIERS currently is (Q2), what it should be (Q5), and what it must do to remain that (Q6).
The biggest risk to DIERS is lack of member engagement (Q7). Engagement drivers (Q8) indicate members disengage because knowledge and tools are hard to access (Q3). Networking opportunities and practical interaction are as important as training alone (Q8). DIERS is respected for what it knows but is challenged in how it delivers that knowledge. DIERS knowledge exists, but is not systematized into accessible, scalable, usable forms.

Summary

The member poll shows a strong foundation with deep technical credibility, continued relevance in relief system design, and a committed professional community. The organization is highly valued for its expertise, yet increasingly constrained by how that expertise is accessed, applied, evolved, and translated into day-to-day usability at scale.
Three systems are revealed in the survey:

- Authority system (standard methods and best practices)
- Knowledge engine (R&D, modeling, and analysis plus knowledge transfer and utility)
- Social system (community & networking shared experience)

The goal is to eliminate the current friction (fragmentation, accessibility, engagement risk) by making these systems interdependent but clearly separated in function and governance.
Output aligned with the survey expectations are

Survey Signal	**Operating Model Output**
Standards & best practices (Q5)	Validated DIERS guidelines and methods
Professional community (Q5)	Active user groups, meetings
R&D priority (Q6)	New validated methods
Education priority (Q6)	Certification + structured training
Networking value (Q2, Q8)	Events + collaboration platforms
Tools gap (Q8)	(Cross-cutting: must be embedded in all systems)

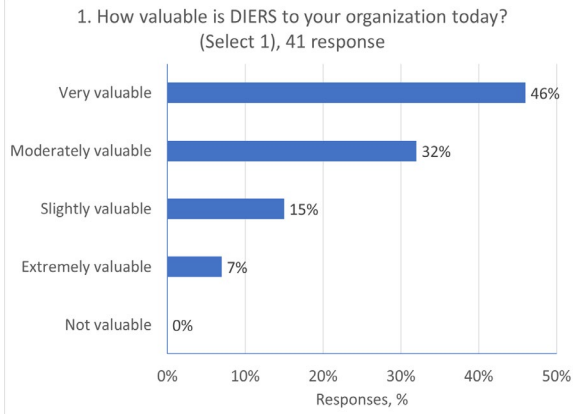
In summary, DIERS should continue to act as a technical authority sustained by a continuous knowledge engine of R&D and education, activated through a high-engagement technical community, and provide tools that connect knowledge to real-world engineering practice.

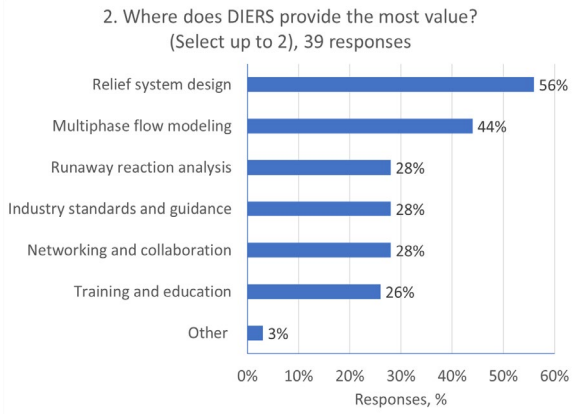
Next Steps

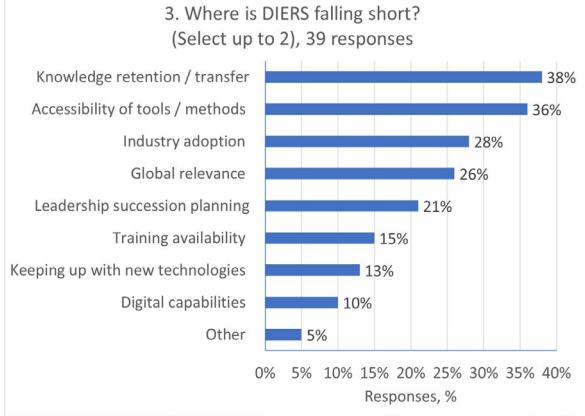
The findings from this poll will be used by DIERS leadership to inform updates to its strategic plan for long-term sustainability, with emphasis on maintaining technical leadership, improving knowledge accessibility and delivery, enhancing member engagement, and guiding future investments in research, education, and tools for the pressure relief and runaway reaction engineering community. Your participation in this poll is both valuable and appreciated. At the same time, we recognize that this survey represents an initial step in the strategic planning process. More detailed follow-up

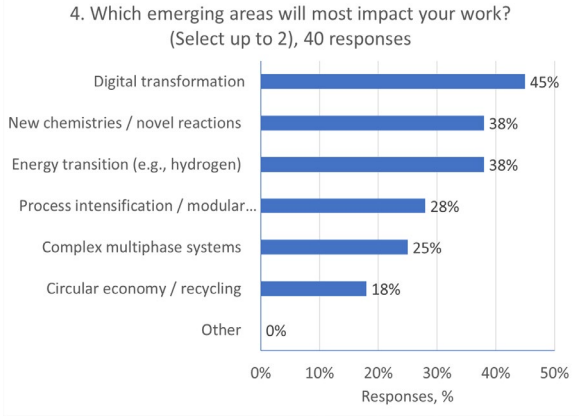
questions and discussions will be needed before developing specific action plans to address some of the priorities identified. We encourage your continued engagement through future polls, interviews, and discussions to help guide DIERS into the future.

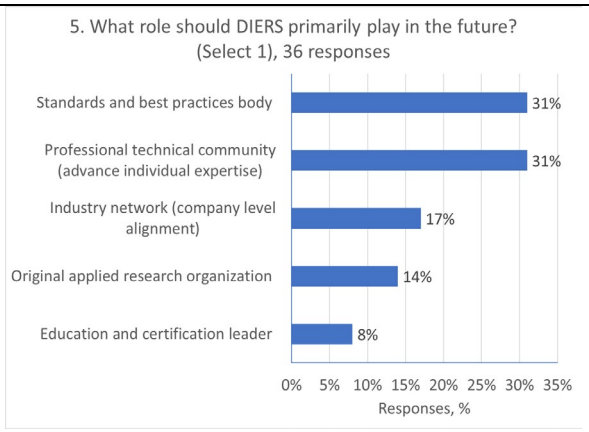
Quantitative Poll Responses

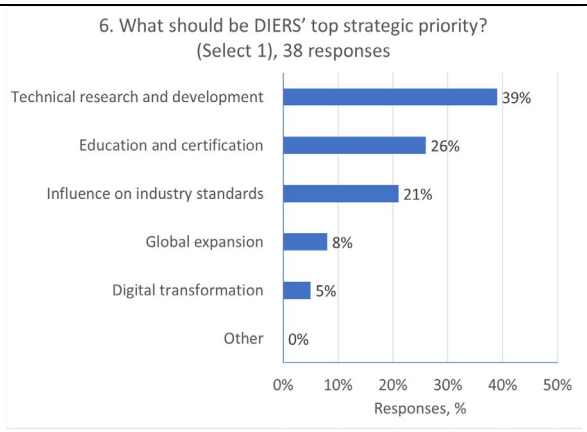


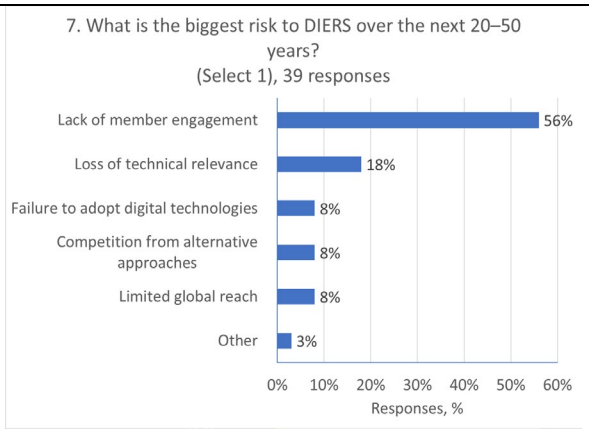


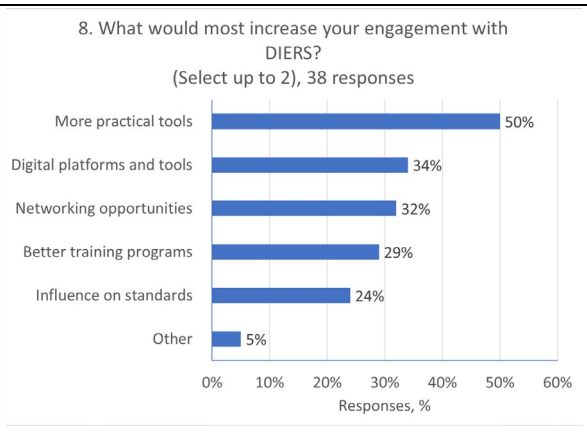





5. What role should DIERS primarily play in the future?
(Select 1), 36 responses
Standards and best practices body
31%
Professional technical community (advance individual expertise)
31%
Industry network (company level alignment)
17%
Original applied research organization
14%
Education and certification leader
8%
0% 5% 10% 15% 20% 25% 30% 35%
Responses, %


6. What should be DIERS' top strategic priority?
(Select 1), 38 responses
Technical research and development
39%
Education and certification
26%
Influence on industry standards
21%
Global expansion
8%
Digital transformation
5%
Other
0%
0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50%
Responses, %


7. What is the biggest risk to DIERS over the next 20–50 years?
(Select 1), 39 responses
Lack of member engagement
56%
Loss of technical relevance
18%
Failure to adopt digital technologies
8%
Competition from alternative approaches
8%
Limited global reach
8%
Other
3%
0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60%
Responses, %


8. What would most increase your engagement with DIERS?
(Select up to 2), 38 responses
More practical tools
50%
Digital platforms and tools
34%
Networking opportunities
32%
Better training programs
29%
Influence on standards
24%
Other
5%
0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60%
Responses, %

Qualitative Poll Responses

Question 2

- All of them
- Improving older technologies via calculations-understanding-
- I like all of them too.
- All are important. Training at the bottom does not mean it is not important.
    - I don't think training is important as much as there is not enough of it.
    - Training at the bottom may reflect a gap in the current training. I know I was answering based on what value it is currently providing but would love to see it provide more and improved training options.

Question 3

- Reaching a wider/larger audience.
- Accessibility of tools more in the sense of how it is transmitted. Even with the training, the training material is scattered amongst a lot of different documents and could be better condensed and formatted for ease of understanding.

Question 4

- AI (twice)
- Design for new technologies

Question 5

- None

Question 6

- I'd advocate for a certification process for chem-e's to be qualified to do relief rate calculations.

Question 7

- Inability to expand to new and relevant technical research needs

Question 8

- Time
- New technology area