

Matt Houde

BIO

Matt Houde is the co-founder and Chief of Staff of Quaise Energy. He is responsible for ensuring alignment and coordination of all workstreams in the company. Matt works with Quaise leadership to synthesize the commercial strategy and technology development roadmap for superhot geothermal. Matt also executes special assignments within Quaise that include coordinating internal team workshops and investor meetings, initiating collaborative research projects between Quaise and external partners, and advising on policy and outreach activities. In his prior role, Matt was the project manager for the \$5M grant that Quaise received from the U.S. Department of Energy's Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E) to develop MMW drilling technology that can enable worldwide access to the superhot geothermal heat that is miles beneath our feet.

GR Involvement

Geothermal has been the fuel of my career, and Geothermal Rising (GR) has been the catalyst.

I first attended the annual Geothermal Rising Conference (GRC) in 2017 as a graduate student at Stanford University, taking a 13-hour Amtrak trip from San Francisco to Salt Lake City, to launch my career in the industry. Since then, I have attended every annual GRC.

At the 2021 GRC, I presented a paper to the GR community on millimeter waves, the transformational geothermal drilling technology we are pioneering at Quaise. I have also participated in annual technology and policy workshops hosted by the Clean Air Task Force at GRC events since 2022. In 2023, I participated in GR's Capitol Hill Day and now sit on the Geothermal Rising Policy Committee at the board level.

For me, though, geothermal engagement goes far beyond workshops and research papers. I believe we must especially engage with those who are unfamiliar with geothermal, as our industry still faces low levels of public awareness. That's why I've given a TED talk on geothermal energy, done numerous media interviews, and continuously engaged in forums beyond the geothermal community.

As a member of the board, I will build upon my extensive involvement within Geothermal Rising, bringing a renewed sense of optimism and focusing on expanding our community to make geothermal a backbone of the energy transition.

Background Statement

Solving the energy transition has always been my north star.

In 2018, I co-founded Quaise Energy with Carlos Araque and Aaron Mandell to significantly expand the footprint and global power potential of geothermal, built upon a decade of foundational research conducted by Dr. Paul Woskov at MIT.

I currently serve as Chief of Staff at Quaise, but my journey into geothermal predates our company. It began at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where I received my Bachelor of

Science in Geological Engineering and Geoscience. Afterward, I continued my studies at Stanford University, where I received my Master of Science in Civil Engineering. I entered graduate school with a mission to work in the energy transition, and while taking a geothermal reservoir engineering course it became clear that geothermal was the natural fit for my skills and desire to make an impact. From there, my work at Ormat and AltaRock Energy crystallized my conviction that geothermal is the future of energy.

Over the past several years, I led our team's collaboration with Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the U.S. Department of Energy through our ARPA-E award for millimeter wave drilling. As the project manager of the award, I coordinated our technical roadmap and organization-wide milestones—a plan that took millimeter wave drilling from the lab to the field and is enabling us to develop our first power plant right now.

My work has taught me the value of vision, perseverance, and relentless execution—qualities I would bring to the board of Geothermal Rising. I am committed to advancing the entire geothermal ecosystem, driving technical innovations, fostering collaboration, and empowering the next generation of geothermal professionals to build a truly sustainable energy future.

Plan Statement

Geothermal has never faced a brighter future than it does right now.

Many industries are seeking clean, firm sources of heat and electricity, going to great lengths to secure as much energy as possible. And in the United States, we're facing the first period of power demand growth in a generation.

What we need is bold leadership to meet the moment. To achieve this, my plan to empower Geothermal Rising and the broader geothermal community is built on three priorities.

The first is financial. One of the key challenges faced by companies in our industry is securing the capital necessary to fund breakthroughs in technology and commercial projects, which will be crucial for growing the entire geothermal sector. Financing may be challenging, but it should not deter companies from realizing the full potential of geothermal energy.

By sharing my experience in navigating the funding landscape, I aim to demystify the financing process for technology development and first-of-a-kind projects in the geothermal sector. Sharing business cases and financing models is important because I want others to see what it takes to scale up our infrastructure and be prepared to fight for the support we need.

The second is policy. Permitting, interconnection, and water rights access are common pain points that are constraining rapid deployment of geothermal energy but can be addressed through advocacy at federal and state legislatures. As a board member, I would leverage my experience to identify common-sense solutions to resolve these challenges and correspond with our partners in government, while also advocating for R&D funding that will move the needle on improving the economics and scalability of geothermal energy.

The third is people. We have an unprecedented opportunity to significantly expand our workforce by leveraging one of the world's largest industries: oil and gas. The overlaps in skills

and global reach could not be more complementary. Engineers and geologists from oil and gas will find a very familiar new home in geothermal. The only difference is the end product: heat, rather than hydrocarbons.

Every day at Quaise, I work with former oil and gas engineers who see the promise and potential of geothermal. They have helped me understand what it takes to help ease and convince their colleagues to join our growing industry. I look forward to continuing this effort as part of the Geothermal Rising board of directors.

The time is now to seize the opportunity for geothermal to reach its full potential. I look forward to working with you all on this monumentally impactful effort over the coming years.