AGM 2017: Gathering on home ground

This year, IOGP will be holding the Annual General Meeting on home ground in the City of London on 31 May. Member Representatives will have the opportunity to meet the newly-elected Management Committee, get updates on recent achievements and current projects and execute the AGM formalities.

Highlights of the half-day session will include talks by:

- Lord Cullen, who conducted the public inquiry into the Piper Alpha incident and produced its landmark report
- Spencer Dale, BP’s Chief Economist and the man behind the company’s influential annual Energy Outlook

The AGM will take place at the South Place Hotel, a stylish yet discreet venue minutes’ walk away from IOGP’s City Tower office on Basinghall Street.

The AGM will run from 13.00 – 17.00, with drinks and dinner to follow immediately at the hotel.

All Association Members have received registration forms. For further information, contact Dianne James: dj@iogp.org

IOGP welcomes Argentina’s leading upstream company

The Association’s links with Latin America have strengthened with the joining of YPF SA, Argentina’s foremost indigenous upstream operator. A region-wide leader in finding and producing unconventionals, YPF is breaking new ground in every sense.

The Buenos Aires-based company is approaching its centenary. It now focuses on three types of exploration projects: low- to medium-risk programmes centred on basins that are already producing; projects that delineate and test new pools of unconventional resources and high-risk/high-reward frontier ventures, including those off Argentina’s continental shelf.

Supporting these efforts is an asset management concept based on state-of-the-art geoscience and engineering, with particular emphasis on safe and sustainable operations.

YPF is in active partnership with IOGP Members Chevron and Petronas in the massive Vaca Muerta formation – the largest shale oil and gas field in the world outside North America.

The company’s Member Representative is Joaquin Lo Cane, Executive Manager Drilling and Workover.
Geomatics: *Highlights* explores one discipline that’s fundamental to E&P

IOGP’s Geomatics Committee is one of the Association’s most active. What exactly does it do, and why does it matter? To find out, *Highlights* decided to get to the bottom of Geomatics by going to the top: an interview with the Committee Chair Walter Jardine of BP.

*Highlights*: What on earth is Geomatics? Is it some kind of mathematical hocus pocus?

Walter: Geomatics describes the dual disciplines of survey & positioning and geospatial data management. Activities include planning, acquiring, processing, managing, visualizing, and analysing geospatial data and covers subjects such as geodesy, land and offshore surveying, mapping, remote sensing, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and geospatial analytics. It also encompasses live positioning support during operational activities such as seismic, site hazard surveys, rig and well positioning, field development and integrity management.

*Highlights*: OK, it’s not hocus pocus. But isn’t it all needlessly complicated? Surely common technology like satnav and popular Earth-mapping systems make this relatively straightforward?

Walter: The energy industry is sensitive to the quality of ‘spatial’ information. About 80% of the data we use is spatially referenced, and the position element of the data is important to the efficient and safe running of our business. Although technology has helped in many cases, if you don’t take the appropriate precautions, it’s still surprisingly easy to mis-position something, or mis-interpret ‘location’. How often does your satnav not quite do what you expect it to do? And that is just basic navigation on land. It gets more complicated when you need to be very accurate, deal with multiple datasets and applications, or work underwater, where we conduct significant exploration and production activities, often in challenging areas of the world.

So licence boundaries, seismic data, wellbores, topography, geohazard, environmental, pipeline and infrastructure data, rig, mooring and vessel locations... all usually require accurate positioning. The industry also relies on key products that we derive from such data – for example prospect locations, reservoir volumes, field development options. Geomatics input is also essential in avoiding wellbore collisions, and for efficient field development, maintaining a common operating picture, or managing an emergency response effectively. The list is almost endless.

*Highlights*: So to cut to the chase, is accurate position and geospatial data management really that important in our industry?

Walter: To minimize risk, trusted positioning and geospatial products are becoming increasingly important in our business. There are many and improving spatial data collection and analysis options available – autonomous data acquisition (air, surface, underwater); 3D scanning; fleet tracking; more frequent and resolute satellite data; integrated visualization – to name just a few. Using this information and accounting for its positional element correctly is making our industry safer and more efficient, with better informed business decisions.

For example, many oil and gas reservoirs are smaller, and harder to find these days. We need to manage them (and our bigger ones) efficiently, which means better understanding of how to drain them (for instance with more accurate wells, or by time-lapse seismic, where position repeatability is critical). Our subsea drill centres and land facilities are more complex, requiring more accurate structure installation, anchoring and mapping. We are often now working in harsher conditions (deeper water, more geohazard-prone locations) and also with increased focus on environmental monitoring and emergency response capability.

While disparate and ‘big’ data integration, 3D augmented and virtual reality visualization technology is unlocking better efficiency in our industry, they don’t always work so well, or can deliver erroneous results if the spatial component is inaccurate or not accounted for correctly.

High quality spatial awareness and a ‘common operating picture’, supported by geospatial specialists, is becoming increasingly important, not just for emergency response, but to improve the safety and operational efficiency of our activities. Geomatics provides the relevant inputs, supporting correct, complete, current and consistent spatial data inputs to our activities.
Keeping whales away

Years of scientific research have yielded no links between the sounds associated with offshore seismic surveying and the health of marine life. Nevertheless, to minimize risk, the Sound and Marine Life Subcommittee of IOGP’s Environment Committee has published a report with recommended monitoring and mitigation measures for operators to take when conducting geophysical survey operations.

These measures, ‘appropriate to the level of risk’ when using compressed air source arrays, are applicable for any encounters with cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises). They are not intended to replace any regulatory requirements that might exist in a specific area.

Among the recommended measures are:

- An exclusion zone of at least 500 metres from the centre of the seismic sound source
- Visual observations of the exclusion zone for at least 30 minutes before activation of the seismic source
- A soft-start procedure that gradually builds the level of sound, starting with activation of the smallest volume element and escalating to full volume between 20–40 minutes from the beginning of the process.

The report also provides recommendations on seismic work during periods of poor visibility or darkness, techniques for towed PAM systems and steps to maximize the benefit of observational environmental data collected during seismic surveys.

It concludes with the handling of interruptions to ongoing operations and procedures for testing source elements.

Report 579, *Recommended monitoring and mitigation measures for cetaceans during marine seismic survey geophysical operations* can be downloaded from IOGP’s website by registering at: [www.iogp.org/bookstore](http://www.iogp.org/bookstore)
BOP Reliability JIP welcomes Eni

Milan-based Eni is the latest operator to join the IOGP/IADC Blowout Preventer (BOP) Reliability Joint Industry Project (JIP). Eni’s participation brings the total number of companies in Phase II of the JIP to 30.

The JIP was officially launched in early 2016, utilizing a platform originally developed by seven drilling contractors which began collecting BOP performance data in 2015. Phase II of the JIP, which collects data for surface as well as subsea BOPs, kicked off in September 2016.

The JIP now consists of 16 drilling contractors, 11 operators and three equipment manufacturers. Phase II of the JIP is currently still open for a limited time to onshore and offshore drilling contractors and operators.

For more information, contact steve.kropla@iadc.org

Meetings Calendar

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Standards - Engineering Leadership Summit 4

JIP 33 Phase 2 Steering Com 8

Standards - Administration TF 9

Wells Expert Com 10-11

Safety - Land Transportation Safety SC 10

Standards - Remote Operating Centers TF 11

Geomatics - Geodesy SC 11

Subsea Com 15

Safety - Process Safety SC 16-18

Standards - Information Standards SC 24

Management Com 31

AGM 31

Meeting types are abbreviated as follows:
Committee (Com)
Skype (Sk)
Subcommittee (SC)
Task Force (TF)
Teleconference (Tele)
Webex (Web)
Working Group (WG)