

## **SOCIETY OF PETROLEUM ENGINEERS**

Drilling Systems Automation Technical Section

Date: Tuesday, 1 May 2012

Time: 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Houston Time)

Location: Reliant Center at Reliant Park

Room: **Second Level, 702**

### **Attendees:**

**Fred Florence**

**Thomas Geehan**

**John de Wardt**

**Clinton Chapman**

**Mario Zamora**

**Walt Aldred**

**Geoff Downton**

**Ginger Hildebrand**

**Randy Hansen**

**Martin Cavanaugh**

**Scott Fraser**

**Paul Pastusek**

**Michael Edwards**

**Shasta Stephens**

### **Agenda:**

1. A look ahead.
  - a. Where do we go?
  - b. How fast? What milestones?
2. Membership
  - a. Do we want to grow our numbers?
    - i. Europe gaining momentum
    - ii. North America just above static
    - iii. More operators?
    - iv. Other industries?
  - b. Involvement with universities
  - c. What type of membership activities?
3. Website
  - a. External site is looking good. What's next?
  - b. Registered user database for managing mailing lists
    - i. Membership

- ii. Subcommittees
    - iii. Other?
  - c. Post our minutes on the website?
  - d. More movies? Events? What else?
4. Other ideas and suggestions

**Discussion:**

- **Look ahead**

As most committee meeting are held by conference call, the opportunity of the face to face meeting at OTC some more far reaching topics were addressed in this session. The question of “Where do we go as DSAT?” was raised.

DSAT has been very successful in bringing attention to the topic of rig automation, from workshops, forum, papers sessions at both SPE/IADC and the ATCE, the core group of believer’s has worked to achieve this success. The composite role of DSAT is to be an organization to promote a higher level of awareness and knowledge on the subject of rig automation, the source of information and a bridge to areas of expertise.

There was much discussion of regulations internally developed and externally applied. The point was made in the world of industrial automation such regulation already exist and just need to be adopted for our case. The objective is to attract people with expertise and knowledge of such regulations to work and advice on the drilling automation case.

Within the upstream oil & gas sector there are islands of on-going work in rig automation, H&P, Huismann, Maresk and Transocean to name a few. IADC through the ART committee are also directly involved. There are joint working groups between DSAT and IADC on the communication protocol issues, more such links need to be promoted and developed.

The question was asked what if DSAT disappeared what would happen – no answer was given! It was also suggested that DSAT set up a page on linked-in to help attract members and interest. [Action: FF]

Sometime was devoted to the topic if through rig automation a catastrophic incident occurred would there be residual damage to DSAT?

The point was made that DSAT is a volunteer organization and as such there are limits to what can be achieved. There are a few companies offering system integration as a commercial service, NOV with Nova being a prime example. Demonstrations of actual working systems help to gain publicity and raises awareness would be good if more such examples can be made.

Publication of more papers in both SPE and other conferences and organizations also raise awareness and the personnel on the DSAT can help write abstracts and through their involvement with committees can aid in the abstract acceptance process.

There was a strong push to get ideas and examples from industries that have already automated, need to get people with good knowledge and a good story to tell. It was observed that within the Operators the downstream activities are highly automated at present, need to get the upstream and downstream people communicating.

Items discussed included

- Roadmap
- Data mining should be included in the roadmap
- Shell/Apache/NOV each have a different approach technically and commercially
- DSATS purpose: network and facilitate updates on automation; wider acceptance of drilling automation where appropriate; higher level of awareness; bridging group for those asking how to get started with automation.
- More working demos help
- Opportunity at AADE national conference 2013 for DSATS session. Anyone interested please contact Mario Zamora.

- **Membership**

The European section is growing at a good rate; the North American section is stable. There is a need to attract more members, from Operators and Drilling Contractors. Work with IADC and help to promote automation in any suitable venue. The interaction and involvement of universities was also discussed and the desire to build up and foster such contacts and agreements encouraged.

There is a database of the people who attended the DSAT session at ATCE this year, need to develop more involvement by perhaps publishing a newsletter each quarter. Compile material on a web site for all the companies working on automation with application to rig automation.

If we want downstream operators to help, how do we find them? Those from the operators present today will advise contact info. Also outside firms like Honeywell who is an integrator in downstream. Okay with group to bring in more university contacts.

Grow membership using tools such as contact list from event registration and Linked In (as discussed above). Offer an active WIKI type process?

- **Web site**

There needs to be support for the web master to help upgrade the site and increase its functionality and accessibility. Better organization of the information.  
[Action: FF and Josh]

Ok to post minutes.

Shasta to ask SPE if okay to have a supplier site with logos. Shasta needs details.  
[Action: FF]

- **Miscellaneous**

Revenue for DSAT by charging for posters and tables at the DSAT events, this money can be used in a variety of ways to improve the delivery of the message.

The perennial problem of business models was raised and it was suggested that speakers from other industries that have automated be invited to SPE/IADC in Amsterdam and ATCE in San Antonio, develop a show and tell.

IADC will be in Vail at workshop to conduct interviews for publications.