

# SPE REVIEW

The magazine for the Aberdeen and London sections of the Society of Petroleum Engineers

**Decommissioning:  
new boss aims for  
'game-changer'**

**Well intervention  
conference hits 20**

**SPE London  
section's new chair**



# Celebrating the past, looking to the future



**Anthony Onukwu**  
SPE Aberdeen Chair  
2013/14



**Alejandro Primera**  
SPE London Chair  
2014/15

The summer months are usually a time when activity for SPE sections slows down from the usual high levels and everyone enjoys a well-earned break.

This year has been a little different however, as the Aberdeen section celebrates its 40th Anniversary with a celebration dinner in the Granite City this month. A lot of hard work has gone into planning the event. The organising committee has secured high-calibre speakers including SPE's 2015 president Helge Haldorsen, Trevor Garlick of BP, Schlumberger's Gordon Ballard, Glen Cayley of Shell, Pete Jones of Taqa and Jeremy Cresswell of the Press and Journal.

The Aberdeen section also has another celebration worth noting, with the 20th SPE ICoTA Well Intervention Conference taking place later this year. This is one of the longest-standing conferences organised by SPE Aberdeen and it continues to attract large numbers of delegates. It is an ideal opportunity to share knowledge and views on the latest technology and techniques in the field.

As far as petroleum engineers are concerned, the issue of decommissioning is perhaps one that we don't often concern ourselves with. After all, our instincts and training combine to ensure our complete focus is on sustaining and maximising existing reserves. It therefore makes interesting reading to discover what Nigel Jenkins, the new chief executive of Decom North Sea, has to say on the future of the industry.

As Benjamin Franklin once said, nothing is certain but death and taxes. However, you could of course add that we are sure to run out of oil in the North Sea eventually. Jenkins' job is to dovetail the objectives of the Wood Report with his own remit to plan for the inevitable and he shares his thoughts on how this will happen with SPE Review.

In London, Alejandro has taken over the reins from Arnaud Mille. Elsewhere in the magazine, he spells out his plans for how the section will move forward in the coming months and it is sure to be exciting times for everyone involved. Of course, none of these plans can be fully realised without the team effort and continued commitment from all members of the board and that ongoing support is, perhaps, something else on which we can be certain.

## ABOUT US

The Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) is a not-for-profit professional association whose members are engaged in energy resources development and production. SPE serves more than 110,000 members in 141 countries worldwide. SPE is a key resource for technical knowledge related to the oil and gas exploration and production industry and provides services through its publications, events, training courses, and online resources at [www.spe.org](http://www.spe.org)

The SPE provides services through its global events, publications and website at [www.spe.org](http://www.spe.org). SPE Review is published 10 times per year by the Aberdeen and London sections of the Society of Petroleum Engineers. It is sent to over 5,000 UK SPE members, and quarterly to an additional 7,000+ European members.

If you have read this issue and would like to join the SPE and receive your own copy of SPE Review, as well as many other benefits – or you know a friend or colleague who would like to join – please visit [www.spe.org](http://www.spe.org) for an application form.

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# New Decom North

There are more than 600 offshore oil and gas installations in the North Sea, 470 of which are in UK waters, but many of these assets were never designed to last into their forties and are now well past their original shelf life.

When the oil price is high, there can be a reluctance to look in depth at the prospect of decommissioning, but the new chief executive of industry body Decom North Sea believes we have an obligation to do so and is pleased that a number of companies are already planning ahead.

Nigel Jenkins is no stranger to the organisation. He was previously a Decom North Sea board member from 2011–2013, when he stood down to become an industry consultant.

A mechanical engineering graduate, his previous roles have included board leadership positions with AMEC and AECOM and he was a board director with KDC Contractors, which has a long and successful track record of working on decommissioning projects.

Replacing former chief executive Brian Nixon, who retired after leading Decom North Sea since its establishment in 2009, Jenkins has a clear view of where he wants to take the organisation and how he sees the decommissioning industry developing.

“The overarching objective for the longevity of this organisation is to ensure the UK becomes the centre of excellence for offshore decommissioning and there is already an awful lot of work being done,” he said.

“We will nurture the skills that will be the lifeblood of innovation and at our core will be a drive to safely reduce decommissioning costs and reduce the liability for taxpayers and future generations.”

Oil & Gas UK has predicted the cost of such activity will be more than £35billion over the next 30 years, but that figure may be modest. Sir Ian Wood's assessment of the oil and gas industry, the UKCS Maximising Recovery Review, suggested that – based on recent well abandonment performance – those costs could escalate significantly and easily exceed £50billion.



Nigel Jenkins, chief executive, Decom North Sea

The new boss of the industry responsible for working out what to do when North Sea oil runs out speaks to SPE Review about his vision for the future.

## Sea boss aims for game-changer

Jenkins believes there is much the industry can take from the Wood Review when it comes to decommissioning.

“The Wood Review is looking for a ‘game-changer’ that will drive down costs; this will come out of Decom North Sea because we are the only organisation bringing all stakeholders together focused on decommissioning,” he said.

Decom North Sea is part of a significant collaborative network. Jenkins will join the new Oil & Gas UK Decommissioning Forum – which connects with the INSITE programme and MASTS. He will be joining DNS board member Nigel Lees who also sits on the Oil & Gas Industry Council and is co-champion for the Industrial Strategy actions relating to decommissioning. Paul Charlton (another DNS board member) is chairman of NOF Energy, while DNS chairman Callum Falconer sits on the OGP and SUT decommissioning committees. DNS also has links into EEEGR, Subsea UK, OCA, DECC, Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Energy North and the Nuclear Industry Association.

Jenkins adds: “If there is a game-changer out there, it will emerge from that network.”

“Decommissioning is an essential part of full life-cycle management. It should not be seen in a negative way because it will undoubtedly create a huge number of opportunities,” he said.

The Wood Review has concentrated people’s focus on both extending life and maximising output, but also there is a very important section on decommissioning and how those activities can complement ongoing operations.

Jenkins added: “We want to keep sweating the assets, but we also want to prepare for the time when decommissioning needs to occur and the technical and commercial challenges of doing that are significant.”

Designing an asset for the full life cycle can mean that decommissioning is a lot more efficient and quicker when the end does come. Where that is not possible, engaging decommissioning expertise at

an early stage can also lead to efficiencies and reduced costs.

Jenkins stresses that in some cases partial decommissioning may be appropriate rather than full asset removal, with as much of the structure recycled as possible.

“If you can remove an asset and use it somewhere else by refurbishing it, that would seem to be a great thing to do,” he said.

“The future of Decom North Sea is based around a very clear strategy and that is built on fundamental elements: informing all our stakeholders, learning, collaborating and improving. Within those four themes we have a number of well-resourced activities focusing on subjects such as early contractor involvement, improving market information/knowledge, reducing the cost of plugging and abandonment (P&A) and lessons learned from past projects.

One of the biggest and most expensive challenges the decommissioning sector faces is P&A and Jenkins believes this is one area where operators could adopt the call for collaboration voiced in the Wood Review.

“P&A is absolutely the high-cost area so, where feasible, joining together to do that is absolutely correct. We’ve had an initiative over the past year or so to bring operators and suppliers together to review and develop P&A techniques. That is a fascinating area,” he said.

Jenkins wants younger engineers in particular to see the career potential that the sector holds.

“If you are an engineer or a project manager, this is a fascinating place to be because every project is different and there is a huge drive to bring innovative solutions to decommissioning.

“There is a 40-year horizon ahead of us of with challenging, exciting and interesting things that must be done.”

Decom North Sea runs a range of compelling events throughout the year: view the website [www.decomnorthsea.com](http://www.decomnorthsea.com) for details.

# Well intervention conference goes from strength to strength



The challenges and changes facing well intervention in the North Sea will be the focus of the 20th SPE ICoTA European Well Intervention Conference to be held at the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre on November 12-13.

Michael Taggart, SPE ICoTA 20th European Well Intervention Conference chair

Kelly Murray, ICoTA Europe chair

Last year's record-breaking event attracted approximately 350 delegates and more than 60 exhibitors to discuss the latest issues and technologies in the well intervention sector and the organisers of the 2014 are hoping for further success.

"The conference is a great way for the industry to learn about advances in technology and to hear case histories from successful intervention projects," said conference chair and former ICoTA Europe chair Michael Taggart.

"But it also provides an excellent networking framework and forum to meet other people in the industry. Everyone who attends is focused on the intervention sector, including coiled tubing, slickline, wireline and also completions technology. It is a

niche, targeted event. It provides a very good way for operators to find out what is happening in our industry and what the latest developments are."

The organisers are still accepting abstracts for quality papers. Presentations will be welcomed on relevant subjects such as intervention techniques and technology, completion systems and well integrity and abandonment operations. Abstracts of 200 words can be submitted to the SPE ICoTA 2014 event organiser Rodger and Co by August 15, 2014 at:

[www.icota-europe.com/events2.cfm?news\\_ID=188](http://www.icota-europe.com/events2.cfm?news_ID=188)

One of the highlights of the two-day event will be the presentation of the prestigious ICoTA Europe Innovation Award. The award recognises a service

company or operator for the application of technical innovation in the area of well intervention. Judging criteria includes technology, application and value to industry and will be judged by the ICoTA European Chapter Committee.

European Chapter award nominations must be submitted by September 23, 2014 and can also be submitted through:

[www.icota-europe.com/events2.cfm?news\\_ID=177](http://www.icota-europe.com/events2.cfm?news_ID=177)

ICoTA Europe chair Kelly Murray, said: "The event is now a regular fixture in the oil and gas industry calendar and allows businesses to really share their knowledge and experience in order to push the boundaries of well intervention.

"The conference is a fantastic opportunity for companies to

showcase exciting developments or technologies giving attendees a fascinating insight into their experience in the field. We're also delighted to be awarding our Innovation Award at the this year's conference, I know we'll receive some great nominations and I can't wait to see who comes out on top."

SPE Aberdeen chair Anthony Onukwu said: "The year-on-year increase in popularity of the well intervention conference is testament to the success of the event and the importance of this subject within our industry.

"In a maturing basin like the North Sea, intervention has a significant role to play, and coiled tubing continues to have a key role to play in that process."



# Society of Petroleum Engineers Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition (ATCE)

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Host Organisation



## Aberdeen YPs at the Pub Quiz



The SPE Aberdeen Young Professionals (YPs) held a Pub Quiz event at The Sportsman's Club, located right in the heart of the city on June 19.

This successful event was the first of its kind organised by the YPs and saw Team DS emerge as winners, taking home £100 of Amazon vouchers.

It was an exciting night of entertaining and informative trivia, covering questions on oil and gas, entertainment, history, geography, sports and general knowledge.

A good spread of young professionals attended from various fields within the oil and gas industry, as well as university students. It is noteworthy to mention that an SPE member came all the way from England to attend the event!

The breaks in between the quiz rounds were aptly used for engaging networking sessions whilst enjoying a drink and bite to eat.

## Drilling Engineering Simplified

Russell Morrice, BP's North Sea Drilling Engineering and Wells Decommissioning Manager, gave the Drilling Engineering YP Simplified Series talk to a packed audience at the Station Hotel in Aberdeen last month.

Around 100 people turned up for the final presentation of the YP's Simplified Series season with the talk drawing in a great range of professionals and students from across the industry.

Russell has had a long and varied career in the oil and gas industry starting as a mechanical technician offshore before transferring into drilling engineering and progressing through both well site supervisory and engineering planning roles. Russell started the presentation with an introduction to the history of drilling and how it has progressed through time. As the main section of his talk he then delved into the different components of planning a well. As drilling engineering encompasses a broad range of specialist areas Russell kept the content at a simple level and took questions throughout the talk so that everyone got the depth of understanding they wanted. The talk ended with an extended Q&A session about everything from career advice to the direction of BP and the industry as a whole.

The YP Simplified Series originated in Aberdeen in 2012 and is supported by Shell UK Limited. The talks are held monthly and organized by the SPE Aberdeen Young Professionals committee.

The next series of talks will start on September 3, 2014 at the Station Hotel, Aberdeen, from 6.30 pm.

The Simplified Series team welcomes the interest from all fellow industry colleagues who would like to suggest a topic for a presentation.

For any information or feedback please contact: George Grangeon ([george.grangeon@reefsubsea.com](mailto:george.grangeon@reefsubsea.com)), Ross Taylor ([ross.taylor@maerskoil.com](mailto:ross.taylor@maerskoil.com)), or Adam Miszewski ([adam.miszewski@bp.com](mailto:adam.miszewski@bp.com))

*Contributed by Adam Miszewski, Drilling Engineer, BP SPE Aberdeen Young Professionals*

## Rising to the challenge of future energy needs

SPE Aberdeen Robert Gordon University Student Chapter member Vijay Anne had a very productive visit to the 21st World Petroleum Congress (WPC), held in Moscow, June 15-19.

The congress focused on the theme of Responsibly Energising A Growing World and also examined the various issues faced by the oil and gas industry. Youth played a major role in showcasing different research activities and delegates had an animated dialogue and discussions with colleagues from around the world.

Vijay was part of the WPC Writing Fellowship team. The team set a goal to create a momentum of high-level discussions between youth and executives at the congress.

He added: "We aimed at an informal conversation setting to address some of the most important issues the youth cares about, such as sustainability, talent development, leadership skills, experience transfer, entrepreneurship, to name just a few."

Vijay had the opportunity to interview Mr Besim Sisman, CEO of Turkish Petroleum. The interview is scheduled to be published at the Congress Review in November. Vijay also published daily articles for the conference newsletter.

He will continue his work with the Writing Fellowship team until 22nd WPC, which takes places in Istanbul in 2017, when he will play a part in providing training for the incoming candidates who will become writing fellows.

Apart from his Writing Fellowship duties, Vijay had the chance to attend various ministerial sessions and special key sessions where key issues were discussed.

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## Shale plays are topic of September dinner

With greater focus than ever being paid to shale plays as a source of long-term gas supply, London's September dinner (September 30) will examine how technology, governments, regulators, academia and the public are affecting the world's energy supplies.

Joseph H Frantz, Jr., vice president of engineering technology with Range Resources Corporation, will discuss how other countries will use the knowledge developed in North America to jump-start their own shale plays.

Although technical advancements are largely responsible for unlocking the potential of shale gas, the industry's coordination with a broad set of stakeholders arguably have equal – and perhaps more – influence on implementation of new shale developments. As such, they will increasingly impact the industry's ability to more fully develop these resources.

Mr Frantz's presentation focuses on key technological

advancements that drive shale gas development, but also the important aspect of how the industry is working with governments, regulators, academia, and the public more collaboratively to best maximise the benefits, while fostering the use of best practices.

After starting work on shale reservoirs in 1984, Mr Frantz has been involved with studies on many shale fields across the US. Joseph has worked in every facet of upstream development, authoring or co-authoring more than 40 publications and taught an industry school on developing shale reservoirs. He has served on numerous technical committees within SPE, chaired the Pittsburgh PA SPE section, and co-chaired a regional SPE meeting. He earned a BSc in Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering from Pennsylvania State University in 1981.

More information, including booking details, is available from [www.katemcmillan.co.uk](http://www.katemcmillan.co.uk)

## London section's new chairman

SPE London section's new chairman has taken up the reins from the outgoing chairman. Alejandro Primera inherits a section that is in excellent shape after Arnaud Mille stepped down at the end of July.

Speaking to SPE Review, he said: "The SPE London section has always been in continuous evolution, what we (members and volunteers) have achieved over the years is remarkable.

"We have one of the most successful Young Professional committees within the society worldwide: indisputable efforts around technical dissemination through evening lectures and technical seminars; awareness about the industry activities and challenges through the long run; and established Women in Energy and Introduction to Exploration and Production seminars, and leverage our position of London financial market with three consecutive years of the annual conference."

Alejandro said the London section will continue with a core programme, strengthening its seminars and evening talks, moving the popular seminars to larger venues and improving logistics.

He plans to strengthen and innovate the communication channels with our members through the new website, social media and SPE Review.

He added: "As a society, we are merely a representation of our members and the industry we work for. We envisage a larger pool of volunteers across the different committees and activities that the society delivers every year. A strong balance between energy and experience in our activities will ensure the continuous evolution of the society and steady growth in our activities, translated in further benefits for all of us as members."

Alejandro is a reservoir engineering consultant and director of Primera Reservoir Ltd. He previously worked as a reservoir engineer with various organisations, including Eni, and is a graduate of Petroleum Engineering from Universidad Central de Venezuela. He is about to complete his MSc in Petroleum Engineering from Heriot-Watt University. He has completed a number of publications and presentations for SPE.

## A real sense of determination



Geologist,  
Aberdeen

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## Well Engineering Competency Programme

The WEC programme is a mentored distance learning Well Engineering Competency Programme. Two programmes are available, one for Drilling Engineers and one for Completions Engineers. Candidates are typically in their first years as a graduate engineer or are more experienced engineers who don't have any formal drilling or completion qualifications. The programmes are based on the member completing 35 self-study modules, practical experience with their employing company and attendance at training courses. The programme lasts 24 months, culminating in final exams.

The two programmes can be joined to create a three year combined programme.

Access to a team of Mentors with significant experience in the industry is available throughout the programme, as is access to WikiWell, the technical web based information resource for the WEC programmes.

### Environment, Health and Safety Programme

Due to be launched later this year, the EHS competence programme for HSE professionals and other staff involved in the HSE area of the drilling and offshore industries.

To find out how these programmes can benefit your company and your engineers or to request a demo pack please Email: [WECSales@fp-g.com](mailto:WECSales@fp-g.com) or call Tel: +44 1624 638580.

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