

# Challenging times ahead







Arnaud Mille SPE London Chair 2013/14

The future isn't what it used to be. Depending on who you talk to, the prospects for the oil and gas industry in the UK are either extremely positive with a long and prosperous future ahead, or fraught with difficulty, reliant on ageing fields and infrastructure, political uncertainty, social upheaval and, at best, is in an era of managed decline.

Of course, any industry sector will have its fair share of those who view the glass as being half-full or half-empty. The challenge for all of us is to interpret the information we have to hand – including the views of those who take a more balanced view – and continue to work towards a sustainable and economically viable future. One thing is certain: the longer we can continue to contribute to the country's overall energy supply, the better it will be for everyone.

Last month's SPE London Conference was the ideal opportunity to hear from informed commentators and industry insiders about how things stand and where we may be going. Two days of stimulating discussion and debate with experts from industry, finance and government illustrated the complexity of the global marketplace and highlighted just how challenging it is to steer the ship through troubled waters.

In Aberdeen, preparations are well under way for our celebration dinner next month, which will commemorate the section's 40th anniversary. The section has been in existence since the first oil came onshore from the North Sea and its members continue to make a significant contribution to sharing their knowledge and expertise with the new generation of engineers who will lead the industry in years to come. We wish them continued success for many years to come.

#### **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.prg

The SPE provides services through its global events, publications and website at 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** for an application form.

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# Breaking the class soiling

# the glass ceiling

It has long been recognised that having a diverse workforce throughout an organisation is beneficial to a company as a whole, but the reality is that there are still relatively fewer women at senior levels and particularly in the boardrooms, writes Isabel Isanjo.



On May 21, over 150 people, mostly women, gathered at the Royal Institution of Great Britain in London for the eighth annual edition of the SPE Women in Energy seminar, to analyse why there are not more women in senior roles and discuss how companies in the oil and gas industry can retain their talented female employees throughout their career. This seminar was organised by volunteers from the SPE London section and sponsored by Afren, Upstream, OPC, Sasol, Schlumberger and Turner-Lovell.

The day began with keynote speeches from inspirational female leaders who have risen through the ranks and who shared their career journey with the audience: Heidi Hellman, head of strategy, BG Group; Jennifer Burton, VP: portfolio management, Afren Resources; Maria Trujillo (senior reservoir engineer, ConocoPhillips); and Iman Hill, VP: development and production Africa, Sasol Petroleum International.

Iman Hill (who features on this month's cover), is a keen supporter of this seminar and plays an active role in bringing together women in the industry at all levels. In her speech Iman explained the highlights of her career and she also shared her views on the impediments and enablers to women rising through the ranks. Iman has raised five children and she told the audience that the key is to be clear about your core values for work and for being a mother and to base your behaviour around those. Her core values are to be an excellent worker, someone who is accountable and delivers on her promises. At the same time she also wants to be a present mother and an integral part of the life of her children.

Heidi Hellman provided the audience with a summary of how her journey has been. She started as a drilling engineer, worked in a variety of corporate strategy and business development roles and is now BG group head of strategy. Heidi invited the female delegates in the room to take ownership of their careers, to be clear about their career objectives and to voice them to their managers.

Jennifer Burton has been in the industry for over 20 years and taken several technical roles and managerial roles. Jennifer agreed that very often the glass ceiling is a female paradigm and that women are hindered by both external barriers and barriers from within.

Maria Trujillo, a young professional who has received several SPE awards, delivered an inspirational speech. She reminded the audience that if you have a passion for what you do, anything is possible.

The speeches were followed by a panel session where senior leaders in the industry discussed their views on achieving a balance between the genders in work and family life and the impact of the European Commission's proposed law to improve gender balance in company boardrooms.

The day was complemented by a series of workshops on such topics as communication, leadership and networking, which were delivered by experienced professional consultancies.

If you would like to connect to the SPE Women in Energy Network or participate in the organisation of next year's event, please send an email to **katespe@aol.com** with the title Women in Energy Network.

Isabel Isanjo is a senior reservoir engineer with Sasol Petroleum International, in London.

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# The opportunities and costs of **upstream investment**

Sami Iskander, chief operating officer of BG Group, was the 2014 Annual Conference keynote speaker

### Controlling costs and the challenge of maximising value to investors were the two major themes that arose from the 2014 SPE London Annual Conference.

A distinguished list of expert speakers and panellists gathered at the iconic Royal Institution, in Albemarle Street, Mayfair, for the Opportunities and Investment in Upstream Oil and Gas two-day conference, which took place on June 4–5.

The conference programme examined the global and regional opportunities landscape and provided a fascinating insight into major elements of the investment decision–making process.

More than 150 delegates were at the opening session to hear from keynote speaker Sami Iskander, chief operating officer for BG Group.

During his opening keynote address Iskander said: "Projects will take longer and finding and developing costs are increasing. In the North Sea it has been a very mixed year. Lack of cooperation raises costs, and there is a need for more efficiency.

"Frontier exploration has seen a move into more challenging environments, requiring greater investment and upfront costs."

Iskander illustrated that global exploration spend had increased

9% per annum since 2010, approaching \$100billion in 2013, as frontier exploration moved into more challenging areas around the world.

He said he was optimistic about the future potential for the oil and gas industry, adding that value creation for investors was key.

#### **COSTS OF PRODUCTION**

Mike Tholen, director of economics at Oil and Gas UK, was part of a panel which discussed the opportunities landscape. Tholen was recently seconded to the Wood Review, which looked into how to maximise value from the North Sea.

He said there was still significant activity in new projects and extending the life of fields, but returns were likely to be limited.

He said that there were still good opportunities in UK waters, notably West of Shetland and in the Southern North Sea but added: "There are no more easy opportunities in the UKCS."

#### THE ROLE OF SHALE

John Blaymires, chief operating officer of IGas Energy, highlighted the role of shale gas. He said the main challenge faced by shale operators was to win 'hearts and minds'. He said it was critical to demonstrate well integrity and allay the fears caused by some of the worst practices of the US shale industry.

"If we can get it [well integrity] right, everything else will follow." He reminded delegates that the UK's regulatory scheme is a global exemplar and that land-based drilling operations had been taking place in the UK, without incident or fuss, for nearly 40 years – citing BP's Wytch Farm in Dorset as an example.

#### **COSTS AND CAPEX**

Evaluate Energy's CEO, Richard Krijgsman, who delivered the second day's keynote address, examined why costs and capex trends had risen so quickly.

Krijgsman said, although there were significant differences between companies, it was the cost of development that was the biggest challenge for the majors. He said that, whilst it was difficult to be specific, there was too much money chasing too few supplies of labour, commodities and rigs. He said there was also pressure on construction capacity and service

industry capacity. His message was that keeping control of costs was necessary to make the industry remain attractive to investors in the long term.

#### **CONFERENCE SUCCESS**

Conference chair Dr Renu Gupta, said the conference had been a success, providing an opportunity to hear from experts offering different perspectives on some of the challenges facing the industry and offering insight into what investors require to sustain adequate rates of return.

Dr Gupta said: "We have not only succeeded in bringing together members of the oil and gas industry and the financial sector, but also attracting delegates and speakers from beyond the borders of the UK.

"Feedback and praise, which I and other members of my team received from delegates during the course of this conference, justify the time spent in putting together an excellent programme and bringing in an august and diverse group of speakers and panellists to share their views and insights with the audience."

### Guests enjoy gala dinner at Claridge's

SPE members and guests were dressed in their finest for the London Gala dinner, which took place at Claridge's, on June 5.

The event, which bookended the two-day annual conference, was a great success and comedian Milton Jones kept guests laughing following an excellent dinner at one of the world's best hotels.

SPE London section chairman, Arnaud Mille, took the opportunity to thank a host of people who have helped him during his 12-month stint at the helm and delivered an ambitious series of events.

During the evening he

acknowledged the tremendous support of all London volunteers, and recognising those helping shape the future of the section:

- Kanad Kulkarni (University of Portsmouth) organised the section's inaugural student paper contest with the eight affiliated universities.
- Isabel Asenjo (Sasol), Zelda Heath (Afren) and Miriam Archer (Schlumberger) delivered successfully SPE London's Eighth Women in Energy Seminar.
- Samuel Akinlolu Ogunkunle from Salford University was recognised for helping his

- university's student chapter in delivering an exceptional programme of events.
- Pamela Tempone (BP) and Nick Curum (BG Group) have renewed the section's communications by helping the re-launch of SPE Review and by standardising emails, social media and our website.

Four SPE London members have been awarded SPE North Sea regional awards in recognition for their contribution to SPE at international level.

 Nurzhan Kairbayev (Senergy) will receive the Young Professional award.

- Bob Harrison (Senergy) will receive the Management and Information award.
- Colin David (Aker) and Renu Gupta (Gupta Energy) will both receive the Outstanding Service SPE North Sea award.

Arnaud Mille thanked SPE London for giving him the opportunity to lead the section this year, and welcomed Alejandro Primera as section chair from July 1.

He also thanked Clara Altobel (Serica) and Kate McMillan for organising the gala dinner, which was sponsored by ITS and OPC.

# SPE Aberdeen celebrates 40th anniversary in style

SPE Aberdeen section held a reception at Trump International Golf Links in May to officially launch its 40th anniversary celebrations. Guests enjoyed drinks and canapés before hearing from section chairman Anthony Onukwu, who thanked everyone for their continued support of SPE.

SPE Aberdeen will be holding an exclusive anniversary celebration dinner on August 7 to mark the section's 40th anniversary.

The dinner, at Aberdeen's prestigious Chester Hotel, will bring together 200 members and guests and has been organised by the section committee as a token of appreciation for members' continued support over the years.

The dinner will feature an evening of great entertainment, along with an impressive line-up of industry speakers, including SPE's 2015 President, Helge Haldorsen, vice president of strategy and portfolio for Statoil Development and Production North America.

There will also be a prestigious panel of industry experts including Trevor Garlick, regional president of BP and Gordon Ballard, vice president of industry affairs and chairman of Schlumberger UK.

The dinner will also welcome Jeremy Cresswell, the Energy Editor of The Press and Journal, who will present a journalistic view of the impact that SPE Aberdeen has had and continues to have upon the local communities and industry in the North Sea of Scotland. The above mentioned speakers will form a panel moderated by Andrea Brymer, the STV news reader.

The dinner is the highlight of a series of events that have taken place throughout 2014 to mark the section's 40 years, including a barbecue scheduled for this September.

Onukwu said: "We are extremely pleased to be able to welcome such distinguished guests to our celebration dinner.

"SPE Aberdeen has been an extremely proactive and forward-thinking section since its inception and we will be welcoming some of the founder members to the Chester Hotel

"It will be a chance to reminisce about the 'good old days', and also to hear much more about what is happening in the industry today and to learn about the many activities undertaken by various SPE Aberdeen committees that play such an active role in the section."

To book tickets, reserve a table or for more information on sponsorship, please contact **spe@mearns-gill.com** or contact **Suzanne Robertson** on **01224 646311**.

# **YPs lend a hand** at Aberdeen homeless charity

SPE Aberdeen's YP committee volunteered to help at a charity event held by Aberdeen Foyer, which helps homeless and unemployed people between the ages of 16 to 25 years.

The Foyer helps not only in providing young people with somewhere to live, but also addresses the underlying causes of their homelessness and, critically, provides them with the means of gaining and sustaining employment.

The group of eight Young Professionals helped out by providing tea and coffee to members of the general public and those whom Aberdeen Foyer supports. The event, which took place in May, eventually raised £470.

Leanne Sinclair, Aberdeen Foyer's fundraising manager was impressed with SPE YPs, adding: "These things can be very hectic, so it was a huge help having so many helpers."

This is the first charity event the Aberdeen YPs have had any involvement with and is part of an effort to make more of a positive impact on the local community. The YP committee is hoping to build stronger bonds with community groups in the north-east through similar events.

Following on from their fundraising success, the group will try to organise an SPE YP-specific event to support Aberdeen Foyer.

SPE Aberdeen YP chair, Nikhil Shindgikar, said: "It was a pleasure for the YP committee to get involved in this noble cause. We are dedicated to reaching the local community and an event like this is just a start for us to showcase our commitment. Special thanks has to go to Lisa Hutchison, SPE Aberdeen YP community events officer, for organising and spearheading this event."

## **SPE ICoTA conference:** abstracts required

The deadline for abstracts for the 2014 SPE ICoTA European Well Intervention Conference is July 31.

The conference, which takes place on November 12-13 in Aberdeen, is Europe's premier forum for exchange and discussion of the latest developments in well intervention and completion techniques.

The 2014 edition will be the 20th and since its inception the conference has matured into an international event where well intervention professionals attend to share knowledge, learn and do business.

Presentations will be welcome on relevant topics such as:

- Intervention techniques and technology
- Subsea fields to mature fields
- Challenging environments
- Completion systems

- Advances in technology
- Thru-tubing drilling
- Well integrity and abandonment operations
- New technology and innovative solutions
- Lightweight rig intervention
- Safety innovations

Conference committee chairman Michael Taggart said: "I strongly encourage you to share your technology developments, operational case histories and experience with your industry peers."

Operational case studies from the UKCS and other locations are particularly welcome. An abstract of 200 words of the proposed presentation, should be uploaded to **www.rodgerandco.com** or submitted to: SPE ICoTA 2014 Event Organisers Rodger and Co. email kate.yuill@rodgerandco.com

#### Aberdeen upcoming events - 2014

#### September 24

Presentation: Shale Plays: How Technology, Governments, Regulators, Academia, and the Public have Changed the World's Energy Supply and Demand Equation.

Presenter: Joseph H Frantz, Range Resource Corporation, SPE Distinguished Lecturer.

**Presentation and networking buffet.** 6.00 for 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Aberdeen Douglas Hotel, 43-45 Market Street, Aberdeen AB11 5EL.

#### October 2

SPE Aberdeen Summit Seminar:

Drilling automation - Do I need some too?

Aberdeen Exhibition & Conference Centre.

Platinum sponsor: Aramco Overseas.

A new seminar to explore how automation can help the oil & gas industry secure its future. Learnings from outside the oil & gas industry will be included, for example, Presentation: From Aerospace and Nuclear to Offshore Drilling, Systems Engineering Plays a Key Role in the Development and Operation of Complex Automated Systems.

Presenter: Doug Parker, program manager, Aerojet Rocketdyne Extreme Engineering, Los Angeles. **Exhibition and sponsorship opportunities available to companies now.** Details and link to book on www.spe-uk.org

#### November 12-13

SPE ICoTA 20th European Well Intervention Conference. Call for abstracts – deadline July 31, 2014

To book an exhibition stand contact spe@rodgerandco.com Details and link on www.spe-uk.org

More information on forthcoming events is available at: **www.spe-uk.org** 

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### Heavy oil will hold key

# to extending life of the North Sea basin

The importance and challenges of extending the life and increasing the production of mature assets through a range of techniques was the focus of the biennial European Artificial Lift Forum (EuALF), held at the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre, on June 17-18.

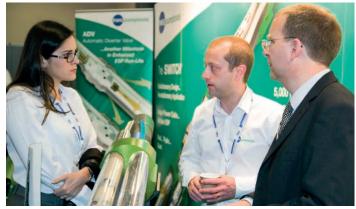
More than 200 people attended the conference, which explored the latest developments and successes in artificial lift and included presentations from experts on subjects such as ESP (electric submersible pumps), gas lift and HSPs (hydraulic submersible pumps). Break-out sessions following the presentations allowed for more detailed discussion on the topics.

The keynote speaker for the event was Ingolf Søreide, vice president at Statoil, and head of the Mariner field development.

Søreide discussed Statoil's approach to heavy oil and the technologies that enable its production, including artificial lift. He explained the company's approach to heavy oil across the world, heavy oil in the UK, the Mariner development and Statoil's current and future plans in the North Sea.

He told the forum that heavy oil would feature in the UK's future. Of new field developments planned for the UK, heavy oil reservoirs are expected to account for approximately 25 per cent of the production by 2022, while heavy oil is expected to account for an estimated 20 per cent when considering the total share of UKCS production.

The importance that heavy oil will play in the UK was demonstrated by



EuALF provides a showcase for cutting-edge technology

the heavy oil field allowance, introduced in 2009. According to the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) there are 19 heavy oil discoveries throughout the UK with in-place reserves totalling nine billion bbls. Hand-in-hand with heavy oil was the need for efficient, practical and reliable artificial lift technology, he said.

Søreide outlined Statoil's commitment to Mariner, which is one of the largest undeveloped hydrocarbon deposits in the UKCS with almost two billion bbls of resources. He also discussed the challenges of developing offshore heavy oil economically, and the importance of applying advanced artificial lift technologies to subsea applications to unlock smaller and deeper water deposits.

The welcome and introduction to the two-day event was made by John Blanksby, chair of the SPE EuALF steering committee 2014.

The conference programme was preceded by a one-day training workshop, which attracted 30 people and was accompanied by a sell-out exhibition of artificial lift tools and technologies.



Established in 1954, Apache Corporation has grown to become one of the world's top independent oil and gas exploration and production companies. Our UK operations are experiencing record capital investment, delivering the highest operating efficiency and one of the most active drilling programmes in the North Sea. The UK operation, based in Aberdeen, currently has the following exciting opportunity:

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Aberdeen



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This role will require you to demonstrate your ability to find value driven solutions and influence the direction of production chemistry in Apache's North Sea region. Your role will cover all aspects of flow assurance and process chemistry relating to platform and subsea production encompassing reservoir, wellbore, topsides and export issues in addition to supporting the SAGE gas plant. You will co-ordinate day-to-day delivery of production chemistry support to the assets including performance monitoring, budget preparation and cost reporting.

You should be technically focussed and able to perform as the main onshore staff chemistry focal point. Experience within an oil and gas operator (either directly or indirectly) would be advantageous, along with an operational track record and a high level of technical knowledge of topsides and downhole production chemistry. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are crucial, and applicants must be willing to undertake ad-hoc offshore travel.

Please visit: http://www.apachecorp.com/Careers/UK\_North\_Sea/index.aspx Closing date: 30th July 2014

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### Discovering a region of unexpected treasures

#### Imperial College London delegation supports local SPE development in South East Asia



In May this year, a contingent of 43 Petroleum Engineering postgraduates of 12 different nationalities from Imperial College London, travelled to Malaysia and Brunei to discover first-hand the region's oil and gas industry.

It was a great opportunity to observe the application of fishhook well drilling and smart well completions to develop marginal fields and manage multi-stacked reservoirs, while supporting local SPE initiatives helping address some of the local content challenges with the visit and follow-up programmes. We are most grateful to BP, Schlumberger, Total and SPE London for sponsoring this trip.

Our first destination was Kuala Lumpur (KL), the capital of Malaysia and a regional hub for the oil and gas industry. Our principal technical visit was to Petronas, Malaysia's national oil company headquartered in the landmark Petronas Twin Towers. We participated in a technical luncheon jointly organised by SPE KL and Petronas, where Imperial College PhD representative, Tarik Saif, presented an engaging

Article contributed by Zhaocong Zhou, Imperial College London SPE chapter president and Tarik Saif, Imperial College London SPE chapter technical exchange director

talk on his research on Unconventional Hydrocarbons and the Pore-Scale Analysis of Oil Shale.

We next flew to Borneo. We took a passenger boat down towards Brunei via Labuan Island. It was an exciting journey as we sighted many offshore drilling and processing platforms, installation and service vessels, crude and LNG tankers, an opportunity which for many was the first time to view such infrastructures in real life.

Brunei Darussalam, with a population of just over 400,000, is among the wealthiest nations on earth on a per-capita basis. Our first visit was to the Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB) located in the capital city of Bandar Seri Begawan, where we led a technical exchange programme with students and staff from ITB, an event organised by SPE Brunei. ITB is Brunei's first university dedicated to engineering and technology.

The event progressed with the presentation of topics on structural styles and basin evolution in the Caribbean Plate Margin, Offshore Northern Colombia and pore-scale analysis of oil shale presented by Pedro Galindo and Tarik Saif, both pursuing their PhD at Imperial College London. Zhaocong Zhou, ICL SPE student chapter president, addressed students on how to start up and run a successful SPE student chapter.

Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP), located in

Kuala Belai, the centre for Brunei's oil and gas activities, was our next company to visit. Our visit to BSP's headquarters ended in high spirits as the multinational ICL SPE chapter football team, led by captain Sam Cotterill, challenged the SPE Brunei Young Professional team to a friendly football match at BSP's football ground, ending in a 2-1 victory against the hosts.

We visited Schlumberger's Seria Base where we were welcomed by Stefan Mrozewski with a presentation and discussion on Schlumberger's wireline technologies. Our group then had the opportunity to interact with Andy Prestridge, Schlumberger country manager, which was followed by an equipment site visit.

We concluded our technical field trip with a comprehensive visit to Baker Hughes' operation centre.

Our field trip to Malaysia and Brunei has been the trip of a lifetime as we experienced different cultures and engaged petroleum engineering professionals in a captivating region of the world. For that, we are very thankful to SPE Brunei, SPE Kuala Lumpur, ITB, Brunei Shell Petroleum, Petronas, Schlumberger Brunei and Baker Hughes Brunei for hosting our visits. We would like to specially thank Zulfaiq Zaini and Mrs Najaa Halbi from SPE Brunei for their efforts in arranging the successful programme.

# **Decision-making** comes under the spotlight

The Continuing Education committee of the London section delivered the seminar Making Good Decisions Under Uncertainty, the last seminar for the 2013/2014 session, on May 22.

The seminar had a great line-up of speakers covering technical and soft aspects of the decision-making process in the industry and the audience remained highly engaged throughout.

The event opened with a case study on the Glenelg and West Franklin area by Pete Naylor, taking the audience through decision-framing and decision-making process. Jonathan Ovens discussed the challenges from the perspective of joint-venture partners and how they contribute with the operators. Alejandro Primera offered his experiences around experimental design to aid probabilistic studies in appraisal, development and production, while Joe Pumphrey spoke about the use of Monte Carlo simulation and the need for probabilistic studies, while Peter Smith complemented with the comparison of four assets and the perception of uncertainty over time.

Geoff Boyd provided a presentation on the soft side of cognitive science and how decisions are driven by human factors, sometimes under irrationality. John McIntosh delivered an interactive session on drilling uncertainty in terms of budget and time.

The seminar concluded with a panel session driven by StrategicFit. Atul Patel, Patrick Jennings and Pete Naylor touched on the corporate culture, decision-making process in different companies and the human perception, whether rational or not, in the process.

At the end of the day, the audience bought into applying a more rigorous approach to decision-making in projects. After all, a quality decision 'most likely' will produce a good outcome.

### **SPE Consultant listing**

**Dr Sib Akhtar** - 35+ years experience, reverse production decline with field proven gas compression solutions, field studies & design of gas compression facilities for oil, gas and condensate fields, specialises in satellite integration and life extension of mature fields. Integrated Asset Modelling. Full Project Management service from concept design to commissioning. MSE (Consultants) Ltd. > email: sib.akhtar@mse.co.uk > tel: + 44 (0)1372 700 760 > www.mse.co.uk

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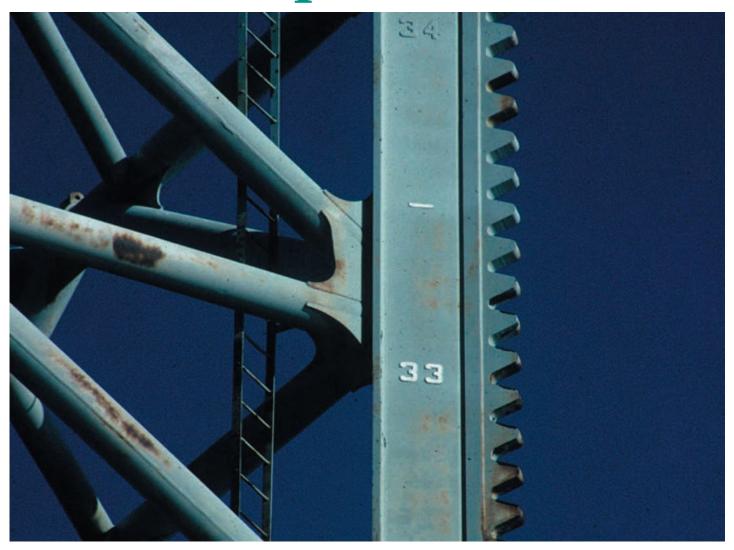
Visit www.spe.org/go/atcesprj to browse the Conference Preview and sign up by 30 August to receive EUR 100 off full-conference registration.





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# Jack-Up Your Skills



### **Well Engineering Competency Programme**

The WEC programme is a mentored distance learning Well Engineering Competency Programme. Two programmes are available, 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 or call Tel: +44 1224 638580.

