

ESRI Petroleum User Group Houston - February 2004



ESRI is the place to be for upstream GIS specialists. **Attendance** at the 2004 Petroleum User Group² (PUG) was around 800 (up from around 600 last year). Most new facets of ArcGIS 9 were announced last year – see our 2003 PUG Report for a backgrounder on both the ESRI product line and the main exhibitors' offerings. So what is new this year? ESRI's **ArcGIS 9** is due for release in the next month or so and will include the new **geoprocessing** environment (supporting GUI and command line-based development), new 3D extensions and componentized tools for developers building enterprise GIS solutions. Extended data interoperability has been achieved with the integration of Safe Software's **extract transform and load (ETL)** tools – while **labeling** has been enhanced with the embedded Maplex engine. ESRI's data type coverage is steadily being extended – geo-located raster images are now standard. **3D data** type support is limited, but the user community is pushing for integration of all 3D data types – including voxels – into a true 3D geo-referenced framework. GIS is only one component of enterprise IT and needs to share data with other applications. Clearly defined **data ownership** roles and **replication** paths are critical if 'balkanized' data management³ is to be avoided. More support for replication came from exhibitors Lake View Technology and Open Spirit – both offering replication services for extended data types including GIS. **Metadata** is getting recognition as the key to enterprise GIS – and indeed to interoperability in general. BHP Billiton is in the process of capturing metadata for all of its GIS objects – and is even considering a 'corporate metadata store'. The **pipeline data model wars** seem to have calmed down some. It's not that they have been won – rather that there is a recognition that multiple data models exist, and that software should be capable of handling the different flavors. Current contenders are MJ Harden's [ISAT](#), [PODS](#)⁴, ESRI's ISAT-derived [APDM](#) and the EU-funded [ISPDM](#)⁵. A half day **geodetics** workshop was organized by the Americas Petroleum Survey Group to spread the geodetic gospel to the ignorant. If you think that latitude and longitude tell you where you are – think again, read our report on the workshop and visit with the APSG.

Highlights

[BHB Billiton – metadata is key](#)

[Eagle Information Mapping – data ownership is key](#)

[The List](#)

[Geoprocessing in ArcGIS 9](#)

[Geodetics workshop](#)

[Z-Map to Shapefile 'bridge'](#)

¹ Pipeline spill modeling in ArcScene from [Eagle Information Mapping](#).

² The proceedings of the ESRI PUG will be made available on the [ESRI website](#). ESRI contact is [Andrew Zolnai](#).

³ See [Thorliefson's](#) paper below.

⁴ A new release of the PODS data model – version 3.2 is currently in draft form. PODS has been cooperating with the [Inline Inspection Association](#) (ILIA) on a data exchange standard to integrate inspection data with the PODS model.

⁵ Link dead at time of writing.

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