National Data Repositories VI[1]
Utrecht, The Netherlands
September 2005

The sixth meeting of the informal National Data Repositories group was held in TNO's (the Netherlands Geological Survey) offices in September 2005. The NDR meetings used to be closed to government and oil company attendees, but since 2004, they have opened up to include vendor companies. A shift has also taken place in recent years as NDR now extends beyond oil and gas to more generic geo data repositories. NDR6 offered a good summary of the state of play of national data banks and the data situation in member countries.

NDRs differ so much that, despite some efforts, it is almost impossible to categorize them. Data release rules, culture, pressure from industry all combine to make for as many NDR and pseudo-**NDR geometries** as there are countries. More in the case of the **UK** which has 3 or 4 more or less coupled repositories (DEAL, CDA, National Geoscience Archive and the UK Oil Portal).

Norway continues to show the way in national data management. Not only because of its decade-long history of an online data bank – DISKOS, but also because of its aggressive policy of 'refreshing' its commercial partners. Norway's DISKOS was originally run by an IBM-led consortium, which developed the PetroBank data management system. This was later taken over by Halliburton unit Landmark Graphics. The situation changed when the DISKOS contract came up for its first renewal. Landmark's PetroBank was retained, but operations were awarded to Schlumberger. Now the DISKOS software contract is again up for renewal – and this time, a Norwegian newcomer Kadme[2] is on the shortlist, along with the usual suspects, Schlumberger and Landmark.

In **The Netherlands**, the cross discipline DINO internet database offers free of charge data from over 200 geoscience data types. DINO is based on 'e-government' principles and works on the principle that free data stimulates economic activity.

In South America, Schlumberger has built an own brand NDR – the **Columbian** EPIS[3]. This uses Sclumberger Information Solutions' Decision Point portal to expose Columbian E&P data and licensing information to the public.

In North America, NDR activity is severely hampered by federal and state divisions of labor. Culture means that commercial data release predominates. In **Canada**, the 'Calgary model,' of all-commercial data release also holds sway. Both Canada and the **USA** are in the process of trying to unite disparate data stores across their countries. Everywhere, the legal situation of spec seismic data requires sensitive treatment: Governments are wary of damaging an industry that has proved a powerful motor in promoting exploration.

NDRs can force an unusual degree of **collaboration** between software vendors and service providers. In its DISKOS operations, Schlumberger's **SINAS** unit operates Landmark's PetroBank software. PetroBank uses Petris' Recall (ex-Baker Hughes) package to manage well log data. The multi-vendor aspect goes even further. In the SINAS' Ordering System (SOS) for public domain data, the GIS web application is Kadme's Integrated GeoStore (IGS) application. The SINAS website itself was 'customized' by Kadme using the open source PostNuke, a PHP-based web portal development environment.

[1] The official NDR6 website is at http://www.ndr6.nl/.

[2] Along with TNO – the Netherlands Geological Survey.

[3] EPIS – Exploration and Production Information Services www.epis.com.co. A Schlumberger-developed portal to the Columbian Oil industry on behalf of *Agencia National de Hidrocarburos*. Not to be confused with another EPIS – the EU Environmental Pressure Information System – also a topic of an NDR6 presentation from TNO.

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Highlights

DISKOS – Norwegian NDR
Schlumberger flagship NDR - EPIS
Kadme/TNO – open source GIS
DINO – Netherlands geo data bank
INSPIRE – EU geo data program
Shell data management
Country Reports

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