

Society of Petroleum Engineers 2002 Annual Conference and Exhibition, San Antonio, Texas



Figure 1 PrideCo's IntelliPipe drillstring internet

What stands out from the 2002 SPE ACTE is the ‘democratization’ of remote monitoring technologies using low cost [wireless technologies](#). These are set to lower the barrier to remote monitoring of fields which are too small or remote to merit full-blown SCADA. On the horizon is the possibility of downhole ‘internet’ as shown above – with [PrideCo’s ‘IntelliPipe’](#) offering 1 Mbps connectivity through the drill string. [Intel](#) made a big entry onto the SPE scene on both Halliburton and Schlumberger’s booths. [Imex’s](#) record-breaking simulation of a model with 112 million cells created quite a stir – running on an 8 CPU IBM 690 with 256 GB. But in general, computer hardware (especially clustered PC’s and NAS/SAN components) is not so much in evidence as at the SEG¹. This is because reservoir simulation still requires much closer coupling between CPU’s than seismic processing as described in the [Yu et al. paper on distributed systems](#). Landmark’s [Real Time Asset Management](#) Theatre should get a prize for ‘trying harder.’ Never before has such an effort been put into an upstream trade show exhibit. Finally, the process of drilling is becomingly increasingly scientific with [geomechanical measurement](#) and computation of rock properties before and during drilling.

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Please note that The Data Room has no particular attachment to the Society of Petroleum Engineers. We would encourage readers of our Technology Report to acquire the Proceedings of the SPE ACTE CD-ROM from the SPE – www.spe.org. We would also like to thank the companies who have kindly supplied screen shots and other images of their products. Finally, our coverage of the SPE is necessarily incomplete – we try to focus on what is new, and what has not already been covered in our Technology Watch reports. Comments on this report always welcome – to The Data Room at +33 1 4623 9596 and info@oilit.com.

¹ Society of Exploration Geophysicists.

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