

AAPG Convention Salt Lake City 2003



[Teleportec's conferencing system](#)

Introduction

Following the near-record turn-out for the OTC the previous week, turnout for the AAPG was disappointing. Many folks (including ourselves) were in Salt Lake City only a few months ago for the 2002 SEG – so there was noticeably less new ‘stuff’. The current political situation and SARS also contributed to a low turn-out of around 5000. We report from an interesting session on [technology and trends](#) in E&P. There was general agreement that technological innovation makes the oil world go round – but few can express clearly how to arbitrate between oil, service company and academic R&D funding.

We also report from what turned out to be a rather lack luster special [session on visualization](#). Billed as an interactive e-poster the format turned out to be the usual PowerPoint/lectern format. Surely a case for a VR theatre here – perhaps an opportunity for sponsorship?

On the exhibition floor we noted the following significant developments:

- Entry-level Visonarium from [VizEverywhere](#)
- [SMT's 'PakNotes'](#) – post IT type ‘knowledge management’ add-on to the Kingdom Suite
- Impressive teleconferencing display from [Teleportec](#) on show at the AAPG booth
- On the distant horizon is the promise of ‘orders of magnitude’ improvement in seismic processing speed thanks to the use of [Field Programmable Gate Arrays](#).

The appearance of new **seismic technology** at the AAPG reflects the ongoing blurring of the boundary between geophysics and geology. 3D seismics and workstation visualization are the geologist’s principal tools today. This is backed up by a continuing growth in the amount of geophysics applied to geology. We have long considered that the AAPG has done a great job of stealing the geophysical ‘thunder’ from the SEG in the field of interpretation. Increasingly, the geophysical ‘takeover’ is extending into seismic processing. You are as likely to have an AAPG exhibitor talk of the latest wavelet processing or spectral deconvolution as about core analysis these days. This competence migration is not without risk. The delivery of specialist inversion and AVO tools direct to the geologist at the workstation is likely to hide a certain amount of ‘snake oil’. Another side effect is to move some significant pre-stack projects out of the seismic processing houses into smaller boutiques with specialist technologies.

Contents

Introduction	1
Session on ‘Technology’	3
<i>Shell E&P Technology John Darley.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Saudi Aramco – Abd Allah Al-Saif.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>ExxonMobil – Kurt Rudolf.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>ChevronTexaco - Bob Laing.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Aberdeen University – Dave McDonald.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Kansas Geological Survey – Lee Allison.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Total – Thibaud Hughes Despointes.....</i>	<i>4</i>
Session on Visualization.....	5
<i>Kerr McGee – Fanchen Kong.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>3D Salt Interpretation in ArcView – Mark Odegard.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>3D borehole interpretation – Ted Bornemann (Schlumberger).....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Struct 3D - Platt River – Keele University.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Saudi Aramco - Roger Sung.....</i>	<i>5</i>
Exhibitors – what’s hot.....	5
<i>VizEverywhere – ‘entry level’ visionarium.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>New seismic ‘Hypercomputer’ for PSDM.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Teleportec – high end videoconferencing.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>SMT’s PakNotes for Kingdom Suite.....</i>	<i>7</i>
What’s new	8
<i>Schlumberger resell Foster Findlay’s SBED.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>HRH Geological Services Gravitas Suite.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Schlumberger’s new fault tool.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Trivision PowerCore.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>BakerHughes Direct web front-end for Recall database.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Landmark Graphics DecisionSpace DMS.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Midland Valley 4d Vista.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>A2d data accessible from Landmark applications.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>New US consulting arm for Geovariances.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>CoreLab Reservoir Information Browser.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Austin Geomodeling new high volume seismic interpretation.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Terrasciences – dipmeter and sonic waveform analysis.....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>GeoGraphix new cross section interpolator and montage tool.....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Fusion Petroleum Technologies InSpect – spectral decomposition.....</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Open Spirit Corp. Release 2.5.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>BGS Offshore GIS.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>IES PetroRisk Bayesian Probability Distribution.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Neuralog New Package – NDS Pro.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Geomechanics International – sand production prediction.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>InfoPipe – land ownership mapping.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Petrel Attribute Analysis.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Rose Associates – ‘bias-free’ portfolio analysis.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>CGM Larson Well Log Viewer.....</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>EP-tech – fracture modeling.....</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Beicip – Themis 3D update.....</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>RockSolid Images sand-shale attribute extraction.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>The Empire State Oil & Gas Information System.....</i>	<i>20</i>
Appendix 1 – Current Open Spirit Availability	21