

POSC Special Interest Groups Houston & Stavanger, June 2004

The POSC special interest groups have working meetings for SIG members and occasional informal regional SIG meetings which are open to all comers. We did not attend these meetings: the following summary¹ concatenates presentations on the [POSC website](#) from public SIG meetings held earlier this year in Houston and Stavanger. POSC SIG activity as presented at these two member meetings falls under four headings:

Practical well log standards (PWLS)

Data storage solutions (DSS)

WITSML

Integrated Operations – the ‘e-field.’

POSC focus has shifted in the last couple of years from container (Epicenter, Business Objects) to content – in the form of catalogs and data value lists. Almost everyone working in E&P has experienced the frustration and cost of using multiple lists for data objects. These can be as simple as well names, company names, license and fields – or as abstruse as a logging tool name. It would be great if everyone used the same terminology – but this is far from the case today. What is surprising is how elusive the goal of a single list of say well names can prove to be. The current POSC **PWLS** and **DSS** SIGS are working towards this goal.

Another interesting ‘list’ is that of all wells drilled. The **Global Universal Well ID** is an attempt to create a definitive source of well identifiers. This has backing from a couple of majors, but the position of the de facto owner of the current GUWI lists, IHS Energy, will be critical to the success of this initiative.

WITSML continues to receive a lot of attention. It may be some way from replacing the installed WITS base, but has been used at several high profile test sites. It is also gaining credibility as a general data exchange format – with support for ‘static objects²’ in the offing.

The **Integrated Operations**, or ‘e-field’ SIG is in its infancy but already is raising interesting questions – like should the production enhancement ‘crossover’ technologies embrace standards from the upstream (like WITSML) or from the process industry (OPC)?

Highlights

[GUWID](#)

[Majors leverage WITSML](#)

[New I-Field SIG](#)

¹ For some presentations we refer readers to earlier presentations on the same topic which have already been covered in our Technology Watch reports.

² Extending WITSML from streaming data to static objects reinforces its potential a competitor for OpenSpirit. See our report from the OpenSpirit user group meeting for more on this topic

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Practical Well Log Standards (PWLS) SIG

The Practical Well Log Standards initiative sets out to homogenize and standardize lists of well log curves. The SIG has financial support from ExxonMobil, Shell, Norsk Hydro and Statoil, the US DOI, the Norwegian NPD and 9 service sector companies. The standard is also said to be supported by – and to have influenced PPDM’s 3.7 data model. 28 attended the Stavanger PWLS meeting including Dong, Hydro, Shell and Statoil. 23 attended the Houston meet including Anadarko, Burlington, BP, Shell, Oxy and Pioneer. PWLS V1.0 was released in 2001 and is already used by Baker Atlas Recall. PWLS V2 was released in 2003 – and again, Baker will have announced support in the next version of Recall.

Standard curve names – Nancy Tso, Shell

Nancy Tso presented Shell’s global standard curve names and offered them for adoption by POSC³. Using standard curve names would make it easier to locate the right curves for interpretation – when confronted with a multitude⁴ of inconsistent

³ The Shell slide implies that by offering the curve names to POSC, they become an ‘industry standard’. This ignores the fact that other oils and service companies have their own entrenched naming conventions.

⁴ Industry estimates are for around 50,000 different names for acquisition curves.