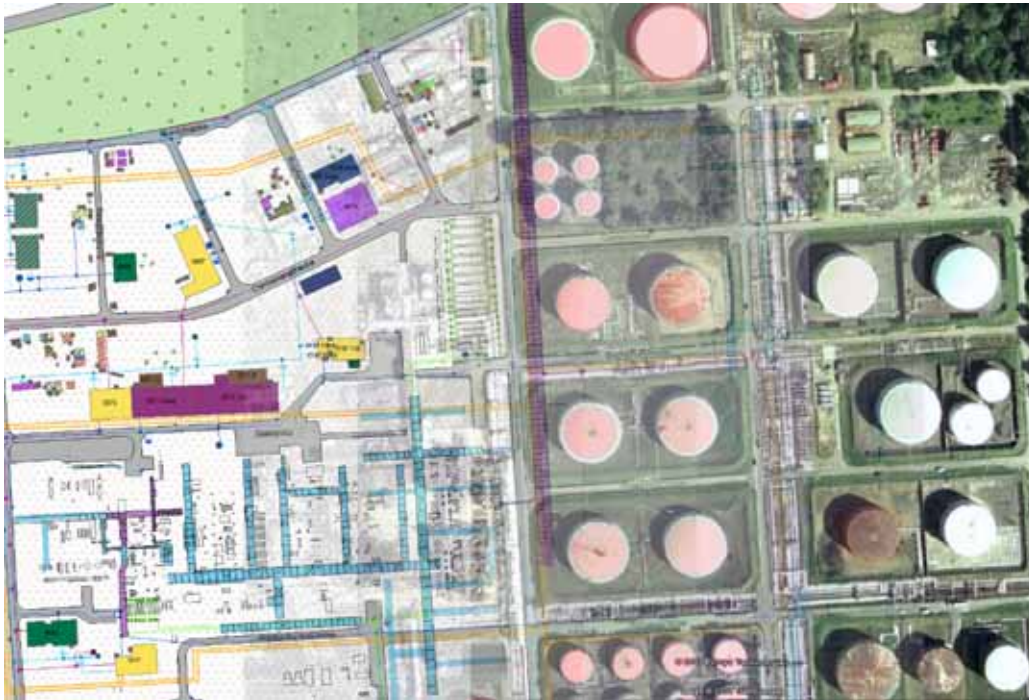


**ESRI Petroleum User Group
Houston, February 2008**



Viasecure's Plant Information System at a BP refinery in Germany¹.

The ESRI Petroleum User Group saw attendance grow to around 1600 this year – a reflection of the strong community of ESRI's domination in oil and gas geographic systems². The ESRI PUG has its roots in the upstream, but now also embraces the midstream (pipeline) sector and even the downstream (see above). Last year the PUG community and ESRI were coming to terms with the 'upstart' Google Earth, whose impact on enterprise GIS³ was uncertain. ESRI now makes a good case for Google Earth acting as a catalyst for GIS take-up, positioning ArcGIS as an enterprise-strength (as opposed to consumer) GIS.

ESRI's answer to Google in the 'spinning earth' stakes, ArcGIS Explorer, is positioned as offering better integration with enterprise data sources. The hosted data sets look good, at least for the USA, but it falls short of the GIS data dumping of Google's servers. As ESRI's Clint Brown says, 'we have to stay in business'.

Plenary session demos included a symbiotic presentation from OpenSpirit whose technology offers users of ESRI's mapping tools access to a multiplicity of E&P data sets. The geoprocessing workflow concept has been extended by ESRI's consulting unit into a 'job tracking extension' that can package up complex workflows for further use. ESRI has borrowed the Google 'mashup' concept and can now serve a variety of images and maps into Google Earth or Microsoft's Virtual Earth. The secret is an expanding use of Google's KML. ESRI is also working to enable geological mapping from multiple geological taxonomies in an ambitious data modeling project.

We report on oil company presentations from Anadarko, BP, BHP Billiton, Chevron, Enbridge, NiSource, OMV, Shell and Southwestern Energy. The most interesting gizmo was the Capturx/Adapx digital pen that reseller Tessellations was showing. This device uses special paper to enable map annotation in the field. Other cool stuff included OSISoft's web parts which leverage Microsoft's Sharepoint Team Sites to access production and other real time data from a map interface.

¹ Image courtesy Viasecure.

² A recent Exprodat survey (www.exprodat.com/news/news_detail.asp?pid=36&iid=39) of GIS in E&P found over 80% of companies surveyed had standardized on ESRI software.

³ Geographical information system.

Highlights

[Adapx/Capturx field data ‘pen’](#)

[Python GIS programming](#)

[Pipeline integrity GIS](#)

[Refinery GIS](#)

[Map of Maps](#)

[ArcGIS Explorer](#)

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