Paper 32

Geological well reporting and well data management — a journey through time

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This presentation will outline the significant changes that have taken place over the last decades in the acquisition, organisation, presentation and distribution of data recorded during well drilling operations. The impact of these changes has been significant and has changed the roles and responsibilities of those involved in well operations.

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In a space of just 25 years we have gone from a situation where drilling operations could only be reported back to an operations base by means of radio communications, to the situation we find ourselves in today where multidisciplinary office based teams are able to follow drilling operations in real time. Decisions can now be made in minutes rather than the hours or days required just a few years ago.

We should, however, not lose sight of the fact that as oft quoted "oil and gas is found in the minds of men". No amount of technology or computing power will ever replace the keen analytical minds of those tasked with finding and developing the worlds oil and gas reserves. The modern professional has to utilise the latest technology to free up the time required to allow him to make the most of the fundamental decision making skills that ultimately make the difference between success and failure in our increasingly competitive industry.