

# STAG Leaps Into Australasia

UK company, STAG Geological Services Limited will open a regional office in Perth 1 December, 2010, to service its expanding list of Australasian clients. Directors, Bob Fagg and Ralph Steen first developed the geological services provider in 1995.

Back then they had three contracts and six geologists, but now, after 15 years in the industry, the company has grown to have 150 geologists working throughout the Europe, Africa and Middle East regions with offices in Aberdeen, Norway and the Middle East. The company has done some occasional work in New Zealand and China, and with the new office in Perth the company hopes to do more in the Australasian region.

Geologist, John Ryan joined the privately owned company in August, 2010 and will run the Perth office located in Colin Street, West Perth.

Steen, Fagg and Ryan all worked for EXLog at some stage and Steen said STAG has been nicknamed 'the retirement home for EXLog'. However, there's no time for afternoon nanna naps at STAG, Ryan and Steen are tirelessly getting the Perth office up and running ready for the new year.

The company offers four key areas of services - geoscience, drilling, training and data management. STAG puts together a team of people to run the geological side of a client's project and is able to produce the post well data, or logs. Unlike any other company STAG has its own log drafting department they can offer their clients.

In the past, STAG has put together well data for clients without having its own geologists on that particular job from the beginning, and this adds to the services the company can offer. The company provides well-site and operations geologists as a core business, but what differentiates it from other companies is that it runs training courses and has a separate training department. Ryan said no one is offering these training courses in Australia and STAG plans to bring them to Perth, commencing in March, 2011.

STAG will bring a training instructor from the UK to run two to three courses, running from three to five days long, back-to-back. Steen said they're not trying to teach their way of doing



*Operations Director, Ralph Steen and John Ryan*

things, the courses on offer teach industry standard techniques. They're customised courses to the industry and in the UK STAG has people from around the world come through for training.

Steen said the training is beneficial to people within the industry because it provides better understanding than just working through a company's software, which is the only training opportunity offered to the Australasian market at the moment.

STAG has partnered with Labrador Petro-Management, Australia's first drilling project-management company, which will provide its world-class well training facility in Perth for STAG to conduct its training courses next year. Ryan said the well training facility is exceptional and has a full rig floor simulator which allows trainees to stand in Colin Street and, theoretically, drill a hole in the ground.

"Between the two companies we're able to provide the total package for the life cycle of a project or a well, a full suite which includes geoscience, drilling management, training and data management, from pre-well to post-well", Ryan said. "The well training is very topical right now because of the fast-paced working rate in Australia."

The companies, although separate entities, have

formed an alliance and are located in the same building. Ryan said Labrador is a respected and very well established company, and through the link with them they will offer the complete package, providing project management through to drilling and geological people, which puts them on a level playing field with any competitors in the region.

STAG is the new kid on the block but is a well established company and already well-known locally. Ryan said no company in Perth is certified to provide well control training, and the only place in Australia that has another well training facility is the University of New South Wales.

By utilising a world-class well training facility, STAG will globalise its well training courses, while also managing its three other key areas of expertise - geoscience, drilling management and data management.

The company is currently working with most of the major operators - BP, ExxonMobil, Chevron and Conoco Phillips - but it also has a good amount of business with the smaller companies. Steen said there's a lot of new companies in the North Sea, and STAG tends to be the favourite amongst them because they know they'll get the complete package. STAG looks forward to building a similar reputation in the Australasian region. ■