

A Paradigm Shift Matching Consultants To Operators



AIPC Managing Director, Jonathan Reeve.



AIPC General Manager, Scott Wooldridge.

Times have changed. Thirty years ago it was a lot easier gaining employment in the geological sector than it is today. Australian International Petro-Consultant (AIPC) Managing Director, Jonathan Reeve, said that when he began his career as a wellsite geologist he obtained regular work after he had 12 months experience.

"Now, placing geological personnel that don't have many years' experience isn't as simple", Reeve said. "Back then, as long as you knew the basics of Wireline QC, quicklog interpretation and had a sound geological background, you could meet the expectations of the project team. Costs and spread rates were lower and the expectations of making a successful discovery were lower."

He said the problem is that oil's becoming harder to find, more complex wells are being designed and drilled, spread rates are disproportionately higher, and due to the vast improvement in the seismic side of the business, expectations of success are also higher. It's a different situation to the 'straight hole in the ground' skills required of geologists when he started in the industry.

To be considered an 'experienced professional' now, a wellsite geologist needs to understand the principles behind LWD and wireline

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tools, and how they work mechanically and electrically, so pertinent information can be provided to the decision making team in the event of an unforeseen event.

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Scott Wooldridge, AIPC's recently appointed general manager, said the company has spent time analysing the needs of this

evolving marketplace to develop solutions that will provide operators with greater clarity of the skillset of each and every candidate put forward.

"There's a tendency for contracting agencies to throw an operator a bunch of seemingly suitable CVs and then wait for the client to pick the candidates that suit the position", Wooldridge said. "AIPC has a proactive approach to understanding the candidate's role and presenting the skillset that matches the operator's requirements.

"This knowledge will also provide the platform for very specialised and tailored training of the younger or less experienced geologists. AIPC plans to take training well beyond what is currently available in the marketplace by incorporating a mentoring component to bridge the experience gap."

Wooldridge said AIPC's recruitment process has become far more systematic. "We can now offer an industry-first career path for geologists and far more clarity for the operator on the skillset of the proposed candidates", he said.

"Being a strategic thinker on how we can solve some of the industry's recruitment headaches is something AIPC is very committed to. It's a win win for all concerned." ■