

Benefits of attending NDR meetings

National Data Repositories, in one form or another, now exist in most oil provinces across the world. They have emerged to solve several common issues:

- Storing and preserving the vast amounts of data generated in exploring for and exploiting hydrocarbons
- The need to market the oil province to potential investors
- Reducing operational costs.

Every oil province is different in its culture, its specific management practices and the size of the oil revenues as a percentage of national wealth. A small number of suppliers have emerged providing solutions to oil provinces and these tend to deliver generic solutions that they will tailor to a particular province's needs.

As the number of NDRs has grown, the people who run them have started to talk to each other and the result has been eleven NDR meetings held around the world. Storing and releasing data is not a competitive factor between oil provinces and significant good will has emerged in these meetings to allow common problems to be resolved together.

Some of these issues are:

- Costs of initial tendering and subsequent re-tendering of the NDR
- Naming conventions for wells, seismic surveys
- Best long term storage; tape versus disc
- Formats and processes for collecting production data
- Gaining maximum benefit from the data in the NDR.

Annual costs of running an NDR vary from province to province but a typical small oil province is going to spend at least \$2 million a year on the basic service and this will grow as more data sets are introduced. There are equivalent benefits but they may not all be realized if mistakes are made.

The benefits of attending NDR meetings are:

- Meeting with people who are doing the same work in a neutral environment
- Establishing confidence in these links such that advice is freely given
- Advertising what is being achieved in your oil province
- Costs savings by copying successful practices elsewhere. Real cost savings can be made at re-tender time by talking to others
- Establishing common reporting mechanisms for oil companies will help to improve the quality of the data collections.

An NDR working on their own would need to:

- Specify the requirements of the NDR
- Tender for a supplier
- Establish procedures for collecting, storing, preserving and publishing the data
- Liaise with all the relevant oil companies
- Establish a set of standards and management practices
- Manage the supplier
- Keep abreast of all the latest technical advances
- Keep abreast of competitive offerings elsewhere
- Re-tender when contract expires.

All of these activities are common and by working together with other colleagues in other NDRs the burden above can be reduced. This will allow more time to be devoted to the major challenges of improving the quality of the data collections and exploiting them.

The annual NDR conferences are subsidized by the major suppliers. The meetings are now run more as working meetings with a number of breakout sessions, technical feedbacks and country reports.