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OpendTect

dGB’s flagship seismic interpretation solution

dGB strengthens services and training capabilities

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Nilakanth Ford is KFVC Director for Europe and Asia. She has 30 years’ experience in developing global business and provides executive coaching and mentoring to a few successful executives. KFVC is a boutique consultancy operating in several multinational locations that provides development programmes delivered by their senior executives. They offer a range of organisational development programmes. A programme which may be of interest is the East-West Cultural Awareness programme. This was created as an answer to some of the issues KFVC had observed in their client organisations. It was designed as business-focussed approach to working across cultures.

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dGB Earth Sciences strengthens

The leading provider of open source seismic interpretation software to the oil & gas industry, dGB Earth Sciences, is to strengthen its training and services capabilities with the appointment of Arnaud Huck as the company's Chief Geoscientist.

Arnaud, who has over 10 years' experience in the geosciences industry, will have a variety of responsibilities in his new role including the management of dGB's services-based operations and customized studies worldwide and the training of seismic interpreters on dGB's open source software OpendTect.

Up to 500 geoscientists have been trained on OpendTect to date at dGB's offices in the Netherlands, Houston and Mumbai with Arnaud responsible for training up to 100 himself. Nine dGB geoscientists will report to Arnaud in his new role with new training modules on pseudo-well modelling and seismic inversion to also be introduced over the next few months.

"Products are not just about software – they are about the people, information, workflow, training and support which create a complete service-focused solution," said dGB Earth Services CEO, Kristofer Tingdahl.

He continues: "That’s why training and services are so important to us at dGB in ensuring that interpreters get maximum value from our technologies. We are delighted that Arnaud will be spearheading these efforts over the coming months."

His words were backed up by Arnaud Huck: "dGB's training and services operations are a crucial and highly renowned part of our business and I look forward to moving them forward. Key activities I will be involved in over the coming months include the structuring of our training courses so that they are perfectly aligned with clients' needs as well as shorter, more focused training that will focus on the expertise and requirements of particular groupings."

Arnaud Huck has worked as a Senior Geoscientist since 2004 during which he has played a key role in quantitative seismic studies at dGB, including seismic reservoir characterization, well modelling, impedance inversion and AVO studies. Arnaud holds an MSc degree with honors in Geophysics from the School of Engineering Geophysics at Strasbourg.

Training and services are central to dGB's operations. As well as training, dGB also conducts exclusive, tailor made studies on behalf of international E&P companies and national oil companies. Such studies vary from regional exploration (object detection, fluid migration history, sequence stratigraphy) through to qualitative and quantitative interpretations – all increasing operators' understanding of reservoir distributions and properties and supporting key E&P business decisions.

New training modules on Pseudo-Well modelling & seismic inversion and shorter, focused training courses to be unveiled in 2014.

dGB Earth Sciences, a privately owned company based in the Netherlands, has been providing seismic interpretation solutions to the oil and gas industry since 1995. Current customers include Addax, BG, DetNorske, Ecopetrol, ENI, Marathon, Petrobras, Petrochina, Saudi Aramco, Sinopec, Statoil, Talisman and Wintershall among others.

dGB’s flagship seismic interpretation solution, OpendTect, is the only available open source seismic interpretation platform used in the oil & gas industry today, allowing the visualization and interpretation of multi-volume seismic data. OpendTect, which is available at no cost under the GNU GPL license, provides sophisticated interactive attribute analysis.

dGB and its partners have also developed a wide variety of
services and training capabilities

Arnaud Huck will have a variety of responsibilities in his new role including the management of dGB’s services-based operations and the training of seismic interpreters on dGB’s open source software OpendTect.

Commercial plugins for customers (companies are also encouraged to develop their own customised plugins). These include plugins relating to attribute and processing analysis, sequence stratigraphy, fluid migration, rock property predictions, and velocity modelling. Partners that have also developed commercial plugins of OpendTect include ARK CLS, ARKeX, Earthworks, Geokinetics and SitFAL.

Highlights in OpendTect v4.6

- An improved Installer with cross-platform offline installation support
- Improved, faster 2D displays
- Angle-based output added to Pre-stack attribute
- Easier access to the rock-physics library
- Well log tools now includes a frequency filter tool
- Format/scaling options available while merging seismic cubes
- Backus upscaling is used when generating any synthetic seismic dataset
- Multi-import tools for well tracks, log, markers, and 3D horizons (“Bulk import”)  
- New 2D pre-stack viewer, including mute and angle gather displays, and pre-processing
- New Time/Depth model manager for wells
- The Seismic Reference Datum is now a survey setting, it is no longer a well attribute
- Time/Depth converted scenes can be made with a constant velocity or velocity gradient
- Synthetic 1D/2D Probability Density Function (PDF) generator
- Comments can be written on datasets that have a manager, from that data manager
- 2D log viewer can be used from various new places (well manager, rock physics, …)
- Utilities in the body manager: merge, region body, combine, switch, calculate volume
- Layers can be manually edited or removed during layer modelling
- Synthetic datasets (traces and horizons) can be saved and retrieved during layer modelling

“dGB’s training and services operations are a crucial and highly renowned part of our business and I look forward to moving them forward. Key activities I will be involved in over the coming months include the structuring of our training courses so that they are perfectly aligned with clients’ needs as well as shorter, more focused training that will focus on the expertise and requirements of particular groupings.”

- Arnaud Huck
New research shows middle east oil and gas market still highly dependent on expats

The Middle Eastern oil and gas industry is still highly dependent on foreign workers with over half of the industry's labour force coming from the expatriate community according to latest research released by international jobs board OilCareers.com.

The research, commissioned by OilCareers.com from leading oil and gas analysts Douglas-Westwood, indicates that the trend is unlikely to change in the short to medium term as the region looks to meet project demand, despite various educational initiatives by the UAE to increase the proportion of nationals entering the private sector.

OilCareers.com Managing Director, Mark Guest said: "These latest findings are certainly exciting for job seekers. For those already based in the Middle East, it opens up wide ranging possibilities for career progression and change. For those looking to experience work in an area with attractive employment packages and stable prospects, this is an excellent time to capitalise on the available opportunities."

The research also indicates that recent new investment and developments in the region, most notably from brownfield projects in Iraq and the exploration of the deepwater Tamar field offshore Israel, are having a major impact on the number of jobs in the Middle East with new projects like these expected to contribute 58% of the total jobs market.

Data from this new research would appear to back up the findings of the Global Oil & Gas Workforce Survey conducted in the second half of 2013 when 88% of respondents said they expected total hires in the region to either increase or stay static. The workforce survey, which is produced in collaboration with Air Energi and released twice a year, offers insight into job related trends in the oil and gas industry.

Mr Guest added: "The level of activity in the Middle East remains strong with recent developments only adding to the region’s prospects as a hydrocarbon producer and employer. Overall, the employment outlook for the region remains positive with high levels of demand for construction and operational roles with over 90% of future vacancies in the region expected to relate to these job functions."

Nanne Hemstra appointed to head new Rio office of dGB

dGB Earth Sciences, the leading provider of open source seismic interpretation software to the oil & gas industry, has announced the opening of a new office in Rio de Janeiro as well as the appointment of Nanne Hemstra as the office’s new head. Nanne was previously Executive Vice President for the Americas prior to taking up his new role in Brazil (as Executive Vice President for Brazil).

The announcements are in response to a growing demand for dGB’s seismic interpretation solutions by South American operators as well as testament to dGB’s ambitious growth plans. dGB’s open source software OpendTect plays a key role in providing a greater understanding of the subsurface and lowering exploration risk and is ideally suited to complex geologies and frontier regions across South America. dGB already has a number of Brazilian clients where OpendTect has been applied, is partnering with a leading operator on sponsored development work in Brazil, and is also keen to work closely with academic institutions across South America.

“The announcement is a real signal of intent from dGB and an important step forward, allowing us to offer Brazilian and South American operators a complete seismic environment for the processing, visualizing, and interpreting of multi-volume seismic data,” said dGB Earth Services CEO, Kristofer Tingdahl.

Nanne Hemstra is one of the founders of dGB’s open source seismic interpretation system, OpendTect, and has been involved in almost all OpendTect developments since he started working for dGB in 2001. Nanne holds an MSc in Geophysics from Utrecht University and was Executive Vice President of dGB India from 2007 to 2011, where he set up the Mumbai office. Nanne was also Executive Vice President, Americas before moving to Brazil to take up his current role.

The Brazilian office will be based in Barra da Tijuca in the west of Rio de Janeiro.