Open Source Advances
From strength to strength in seismic interpretation software.

Whatever sector you work in and whatever business applications you have on your laptop and web site, it is likely that much of your software is open source. The International Data Corporation (IDC) predicts the market and related products will reach US$8 billion by 2013. Yet, for all the growth in open source software over the last few years, few would readily identify the oil and gas industry as a leader this field - until now that is, according to dGB Earth Sciences, a provider of open source seismic interpretation software. dGB is showcasing the latest version of its OpendTect software - OpendTect 4.2 at Vienna 2011. The company says that its OpendTect software has been downloaded more than 52,500 times from www.opendtect.com, providing operators with a vital tool in interpreting and generating maximum value from their geological data.

While seismic interpretation software has advanced considerably over the last few years, dGB believes that, all too often, there has remained a lack of integration between different applications and a lack of input from users. Technology advances seemed to be dominated then by a few players, with any new company wanting to bring their software to market having to spend the majority of their time building a complete interpretation system rather than focusing on the software itself.

OpendTect, which was first made available in 2003 and which came under the General Public License (GPL) in 2009, provides users with a truly open platform for seismic interpretation. While supplemented by a variety of commercial plugins related to specialist areas such as sequence stratigraphy, fluid migration, and reservoir properties, OpendTect contains all the features and tools of the majority of geophysicists and seismic interpreters require for carrying out highly sophisticated interpretations. This includes a powerful attribute engine providing sophisticated multi-volume, interactive analysis tools, the latest in seismic filtering and processing capabilities, and the ability to connect with other open source seismic processing packages, such as Madagascar.

At EAGE this year, dGB and ARK CLS will also be announcing a direct data link with the Petrel seismic to simulation software using the Ocen software development framework, ensuring that seismic interpretation and the creation of accurate reservoir models is brought even closer together.

In addition, the adoption of open source software is the ideal platform for other oilfield services companies to develop their own interpretation tools. For example, OpendTect is the ideal platform for other oilfield services companies to develop their own interpretation tools. For example, dGB and ARK CLS will also be announcing a direct data link with the Petrel seismic to simulation software using the Ocen software development framework, ensuring that seismic interpretation and the creation of accurate reservoir models is brought even closer together.

Collaboration and open source are the keys to advancing technology through the sharing of ideas - and source code - people can be inspired and better interpretation technologies generated. The result is a win-win solution for all sides and, most importantly of all, a win-win solution for the geophysics and seismic interpretation industry as a whole. To find out more about dGB, visit booth 1614.