

GeoWorld

NUMBER 99/4 - DECEMBER 1999

Message from Management

The past year has been a turbulent time for the oil industry in general and for Geoservices in particular.

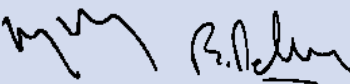
The large decline in the price of crude oil in 1998 caused the biggest crisis our industry has known since 1986. It showed how real the effects of excess production capacity can be, at least in the short term.

At Geoservices, we began an essential rightsizing program and completed it in the allotted time. This has left us with a rejuvenated company, well equipped to face the year 2000 which looks like being a transition year rather than a year of significant growth.

We must now not only keep the company going but also prepare for the upturn which should take place towards the middle of the year, if the present price of oil can be maintained after winter in the Northern Hemisphere. At this stage we must have dynamic and efficient structures in place and ready for the future.

To this end, a new organisation will be announced in January 2000 and put into place during the first half of the year. It will simplify the chains of command, shorten decision-making paths and provide greater mobility to our teams. It should allow everyone to better express themselves within the Group

Thanking you all again for the special contributions you make to the success of Geoservices; we wish you happy seasonal celebrations and best wishes for the Year 2000.



B. Burban

B. Debray

Congratulations from British Prime Minister for continuing commitment to safety.

Geoservices has once again won the highest award available in the United Kingdom for its Health & Safety record. At a luncheon ceremony in the historic Goldsmith's Hall in London in November, the British Safety Council presented us with its "Sword of Honour" for the sixth consecutive year. Geoservices was one of just 40 companies who were selected for the award from those who had achieved the maximum rating in the Council's Five Star Health and Safety Management System Audit. Britain's Prime Minister, Tony Blair, sent a message of congratulations saying, *"we must get away from the misconception that managing health and safety is about red tape. The truth of the matter is that a workforce that is healthy, happy and here, is the*

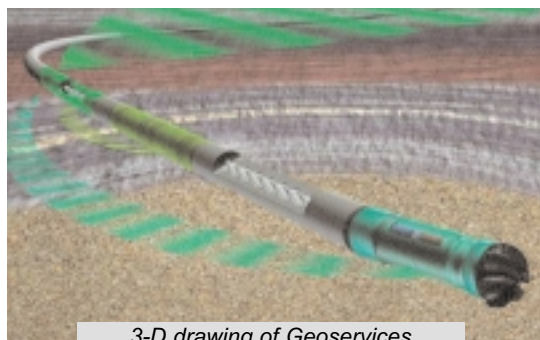


Jean-René Croguennec (Europe Area Manager) receiving the Sword of Honour from Sir Neville Purvis, KCB, Director General of the British Safety Council.

key to optimum productivity... I urge you to work with us to promote this message. We can all take pride in the excellence you have achieved."

Austin Chalk drillers welcome Retrievable-Reseatable EM MWD ER

The famous Austin Chalk, which underlies a large part of the State of Texas is well known for lost circulation problems while drilling. This rules out mud pulse tools for MWD work since the drilling fluid needed to carry the data to surface may disappear at any time. For the last 12 years or so, drillers have overcome this problem by using wet connect steering tools to drill their directional wells. This type of steering tool uses a cable to carry the directional data to surface so is independent of the drilling fluid. In addition, since the tool is attached to the end of a cable, it can be easily retrieved and replaced (reseated) if things go wrong, as they often do in this troublesome formation. To retrieve the EM MWD, on the other hand, the whole drillstring had to be tripped out



3-D drawing of Geoservices EM MWD tool with LWD sensors

All this has now changed, ever since United GeoCom Drilling Services started running the Geoservices Retrievable-Reseatable EM MWD ER there. The EM MWD has always had a

much better reliability record than steering tools but now it can also be retrieved and reseated using the ER (Extended Range) cable. One disadvantage with the steering tool is that its cable has to be pulled all the way back into the Kelly before making a pipe connection whereas the ER cable can stay in the drill pipe, thus saving valuable rig time during connections. *"On the four horizontal wells we've drilled to date to evaluate the new set up",* says Tom Hicks, MWD Sales

Engineer in Houston, *"we have had no tool failures. On one well our client estimated that we had saved him 2 whole days rig time which meant he was \$52,000 better off at the end of it."*

The United GeoCom team are anticipating that the EM MWD's superior reliability and its time-saving features will keep them busy in Texas for some time to come.

S P O T L I G H T

Out of NIGERIA

An interview with Gertrude Adaobi Okafor

Mud Logging Administrator and data quality control officer for Nigeria, based in Port Harcourt.

Gertie, how long have you been with Geoservices and what did you study before joining us?

I was hired by Geoservices on November 1st, 1996 towards the end of my time with the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC). Prior to that I studied at the Federal University of Technology in Akure and graduated with a B. Tech. Honours in Applied Geology. During this period I also participated in a six-month student industrial training program with Prusag Drilling Engineers, a drilling company located in Lagos. Hence my previous experience included mud sample collection, lithological description of cuttings, borehole capacity determination, general report writing on the drilling process and geological findings.

There must have been other companies you could have joined, why Geoservices?

I was drawn to Geoservices because its working environment provides equal opportunities to all employees. This outlook makes it



Gertrude examining cuttings for Elf Nigeria onboard the Sedco 700 semi-submersible

easier for any member of the personnel to acquire experience in different fields of activity, both onshore and offshore and without regard to gender, race or religion.

You seem to have arrived with plenty of experience already; have you received any training since then?

Since I joined Geoservices I have been fortunate to receive training in a number of different areas, notably basic mud logging, the Advanced

Logging System (ALS-2), overpressure detection, mud logging interpretation, ASCII data import-export, Adobe Acrobat software and the Quantitative Fluorescence Technique (QFT).

Do you find that your wellsite experience helps you to do your present job?

Yes, of course. The training I mentioned, coupled with my experience from rig work makes it easier for me to detect and correct anomalies in both logs and final well reports, e.g. a gas peak opposite a bed of shale. Also,

I appreciate the rig workers more and the information they provide me with because I have had first-hand experience of what it all involves.

Do you have a message for any colleagues who might feel the oil industry is exclusively a man's domain?

I believe anything a man can do a woman can do even better! They should be persistent in their pursuit and most importantly be an authority in their specialised field. Gender should pose no barrier in a work environment.

Return to NIGERIA

The recent seminar held to mark the setting up the West Africa District in Nigeria (see back page) was a special and nostalgic occasion for at least one of the visitors from Paris. It was Gérard Meillan's first trip back to the country since being assigned there as a mudlogger 27 years ago!



GeoWorld asked Mr Meillan for his impressions of the changes in the country over the years: "As Group Human Resources

Manager, the first thing that struck me was how well the local Geoservices personnel have embraced the new technology. When I recall the time I

was assigned to the onshore operations in the Warri area, back in 1972, when most of our local staff were limited to purely geological sampling procedures, I can appreciate the achievements made by

the very modern and professional Nigerian teams we have today. I was also very aware of the high level of commitment the Geoservices Nigeria teams showed irrespective of their nationality. Country-of-origin or gender do not play any role as selec-

tion criteria in the Geoservices Nigeria organisation, one has to be good at his or her job and strongly committed in order to

be eligible for a responsible position, and nothing else. Our District Manager, Robert Grégoire, seems to have succeeded well in establishing a strong organisation based

on confidence and delegation of authority.

Anybody visiting our Port Harcourt base will meet rig technicians, base technicians, engineers, administrative or operational staff who display great confidence in their



Gérard Meillan (now Group Human Resources Manager) in a mud logging unit with three local colleagues in Nigeria in 1972

Return to NIGERIA (continued)

Company and maintain a very mature and positive attitude. In fact the quality of our organisation in Nigeria was a major factor in deciding to locate our new District for West Africa in Lagos. Structure overheads are thus minimised through synergies and

flexibility between the district office and the Port Harcourt base. Moreover, it is expected that this new district set up will help our Nigerian engineers to gain more international experience since they deserve to be in contact with a wider client base.

Let me finish by saying that during my visit I was so favourably impressed by our teams that I have every confidence that their very positive attitude will win us new market share in the area as this slump period inevitably comes to an end."

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

Europe

New mud logging contracts in UK

The North Sea District received a Christmas bonus from Total with confirmation of a contract extension for a further two years to supply mud logging services on the Alwyn North Platform. Geoservices has been providing mud logging services on the Alwyn Platform continuously since 1986

ROC-Oil, (formerly Candecca), has awarded us their onshore mud logging service contract for 2000 and work should begin in the first quarter of the new millennium. We are expecting to see an increase in demand for personnel in the District during the same quarter although a more general improvement in activity is not predicted until the second half of the year.

The West Navion drillship (see back page GeoWorld Sept. '99) is now due to undergo sea trials early in 2000 before drilling a "shake down" well (a well with reduced risks and simple objectives so that all the equipment can be tested in less demanding conditions).

The Caspian Sea District held a promotional presentation in Baku, Azerbaijan at the beginning of December. Yann Douarin, Base Manager, and a delegation of service line experts from Paris hosted the event for the presidents and top executives of existing and potential clients in the area.

Asia-Pacific & Middle East

The rise of the Reserval in Asia

Even though the market is still slow, clients in Asia-Pacific continue to be very interested in top level mud logging services, and especially our high tech hydrocarbon analyser, the Reserval. Our clients are making good use of all the Reserval's features; its fast analysis, high sensitivity and accuracy etc. They are also realising that the real added value of this instrument is not in the raw data it produces but in the information that can be obtained from these data.

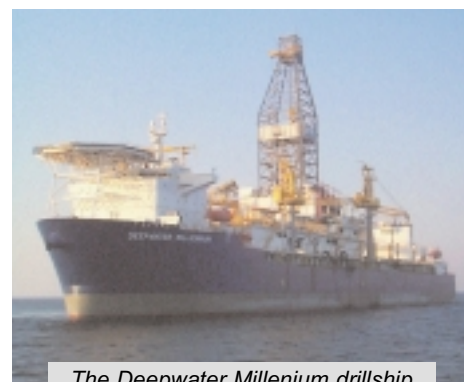
The benefit of this information was demonstrated to clients in the region by means of new gas ratios which are under development in collaboration with our Service Line specialists in Paris. Once finalised, they will give us a better picture of the composition of reservoir fluid in place, in real time. The methods used so far are now widely recognised as working well by nine different clients in Asia and we plan to have eight Reservals working simultaneously in the region in January.

North America

Mud logging unit recognised as "Information Hub"

A new three-year mud logging contract started in October onboard the Deepwater

Millenium drillship in the Gulf of Mexico. It is the latest in a new generation of ships now leaving construction yards and it will be used by various clients including Statoil and Marathon. The mud logging unit is set up to



The Deepwater Millenium drillship in the Gulf of Mexico

receive data produced by other service companies on board and so, for the first time in the Gulf of Mexico, the client looks on the unit as the focal point for data collection or the "Information Hub". Chris Platt made a presentation at the Deepwater 2000 Technologies conference in New Orleans on this theme in November, describing how the "Information Hub" provides clients with real-time geologic, drilling and petrophysical data. Over 180 delegates attended the two-day conference which covered all aspects of Deepwater Drilling.

The North America region has been developing an Intranet-based real-time communications system for mud logging data. When the system is fully developed, it will allow clients to view a variety of screens from any PC, and will enable them to print logs, download data and run a number of the Geoservices' engineering programs from the comfort of their offices or homes. The system will be field tested in December 1999.

On the 12th December, Geoservices North America was certified ISO 9000 for its Hibernia operations in St. John's in Canada.

New appointment at Head Office



We were pleased to welcome Gérard Thibaudeau to the Group as our new Corporate Secretary in September and sorry to say goodbye to Jean-François Daviau whom he replaced.

Most of Mr Thibaudeau's career to date has been spent in financial and administrative positions in

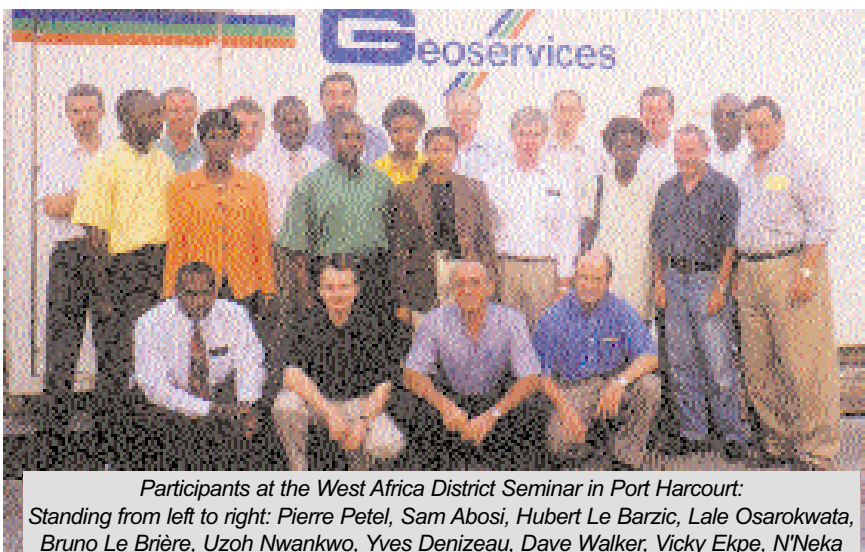
the downstream division of Elf, holding directorships in the group's subsidiary companies. As Corporate Secretary, he will have overall responsibility for Geoservices' financial accounting, information systems, legal matters, and communications.

We wish him well in his new job.

FOCUS

New district CREATED

The newly-created West Africa District, which includes existing structures in Nigeria, Angola, Congo, Gabon, Cameroon and potential activity in Ghana, Equatorial Guinea and Kenya, hosted a successful seminar in Port Harcourt, Nigeria in November. The seminar included representatives from general management in Paris and was called to review this year's performance and to present the budget plan for the year 2000. Special emphasis was placed on the need for improved Sales and



*Participants at the West Africa District Seminar in Port Harcourt:
Standing from left to right: Pierre Petel, Sam Abosi, Hubert Le Barzic, Lale Osarokwata, Bruno Le Brière, Uzoh Nwankwo, Yves Denizeau, Dave Walker, Vicky Ekpe, N'Neka Ogbaide, Gérard Thibaudeau, Gérard Meillan, Jean Luc Briard, Winnie Wudiri, Jean-René Croguennec, Michel Maume, Abu Osikpamobor, Carlos Brecha
Crouching left to right: Steve Worlu, Xavier Le Marquis, Robert Grégoire, Benoît Debray*

Marketing strategies in order to strengthen and extend Geoservices' presence in the area.

The District is now headquartered in Lagos, ever since Robert Grégoire, District Manager, moved there recently from Port Harcourt. In January, his team will be joined by Pierre Petel from Paris who has been appointed District Sales Manager. The Nigeria Base, managed by Xavier Le Marquis, will continue to be run from Port Harcourt.

TECHNICAL PAPERS

Enhance your professional standing (and earn a bonus) by writing a Technical Paper

Many of you will remember that we ran a Technical Paper Writing Competition in GeoWorld last year which offered cash prizes to the three winning authors and their co-authors. General Management has now decided to introduce a permanent incentive along the same lines to encourage personnel to write papers and articles of sufficient standard to be published. Good technical papers presented at conferences or articles published in the industry press can be a powerful advertisement for the company.

Content?

The subject of your work can be a case-study about an interesting operation where you or your team provided an exceptional service to solve a particular problem, or put in place a new system or method which improved the efficiency of operations.

Text?

The first step is to decide on a topic and then write an abstract or short summary describ-

ing the paper's contents in about 300 words. This should be submitted to the Technical Paper Review Committee in Le Blanc-Mesnil for approval before starting on the final manuscript. Once the abstract has been approved and the publication medium chosen, the Communications Department will give you the necessary guidelines for text format and layout.

Rules?

A maximum number of four people can be involved in producing any one paper or article, for example, one main author and three co-authors. All authors must make a significant contribution to the writing of the paper or the operation or procedure being described in it.

What's the bonus?

When the final manuscript has been submitted, the Technical Paper Review Committee will decide on the amount of recompense due for your time and effort.

This will be determined by the quality of the work and the possibilities of having it published but will, in any event, fall between the range shown below:

<i>Minimum:</i>	
- Authors:	One month's part 'A'
- Co-authors:	Half month's part 'A'
<i>Maximum:</i>	
- Authors:	Two month's par 'A'
- Co-authors:	One month's part 'A'

Remember this is open to anybody who feels they have some useful information to impart to others which will benefit our industry in some way. Please send your abstract to your Base Manager or the Chairman of the Technical Paper Review Committee (Louis Soulier) at head office by mail, fax or e-mail (soulier@geosrv.com).

CAS is coming !
Competence Assurance System
 See the next GeoWorld for details.

GeoWorld

The Geoservices Group newsletter
 Publication Director & Editor: Keith Ross
 Layout: Peter Livermore
 7, rue Isaac Newton – 93150 Le Blanc-Mesnil – France
 Tel.: 33 (0) 1 48 14 83 83 - Fax: 33 (0) 1 48 14 85 85
 E-mail: mail@geoservices.com
 Website: http://www.geoservices.com