Society of Exploration Geophysicists

Annual Conference and Exposition – Dallas 2003

Fancy espresso machine on the Landmark booth.

Introduction

Dallas is pretty much in terminal decline as an oil town so the turnout for this year's SEG convention was quite acceptable – although the exposition itself was rather sparsely attended. The mood of the show was similarly downbeat – with complaints from all and sundry about oil companies sitting on their hands (and their profits), not spending on geophysics, despite all the new technology. In fact the only apparent salvation for the geophysical industry would appear to come from the application of new technology – 4D, 4C, permanent sensors and sea bed recording. If the industry really does turn around into what Dalton Boutte calls the 'alpha and omega' of the reservoir, then maybe the SEG should change its name to reflect this expansion from exploration into the production business.

4D (time lapse) seismics continues to get good press. 4C (multi-component seismics), according to Raoul Restucci, has yet to prove its merits – although there was a plethora of developments in 4C hardware from companies such as Thales, Input/Output, ABB. The general impression is that if you are going to equip your 'e-fields' with permanent sensors, they might as well be 4C – after all by the time you have recorded a significant amount of data someone will have figured out what to do with it all!

Much work is in progress on computer-aided seismic interpretation with tools for seismic data mining, automated 3D voxbody tracking and seismic facies classification. Landmark's Dave Hale believes that while the human mind is very good at 2D pattern recognition, for 3D data, the computer may have the edge.

Highlights

TLE Forum – The Future of Petroleum
Earth Decision Sciences VolumeExplorer
Vibtech's WiFi-based data acquisition
Helical Systems HH Archive – N-dimensional SDO
SEG-'E' standard mooted
Papers of Note

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