

Weatherford recognise the benefits of ITF



L to R: David Liddle, technology manager at ITF, and Helen Tulloch, business development manager at ITF, with John Boyes, European strategic technology manager for Weatherford

Weatherford has become the second service company to join ITF, the industry's technology facilitator following its new service company engagement programme.

"At our AGM last year the importance of encouraging technological innovation and promoting success throughout the entire oil and gas sector, including the service companies was discussed, explained Neil Poxon, managing director of ITF. "Service companies like Weatherford are crucial to our success. It is the larger service companies who apply the technologies in the field therefore we must actively engage with them and understand their needs as well as the needs of the operators."

In turn, it is important to note that ITF membership also brings its own benefits, as expressed by Stuart Ferguson, chief technology officer and board director at Weatherford.

"Weatherford has made substantial investments in technology development, particularly in the last ten years. As a result, we are continually reviewing our practice to ensure we are in line with the industry's technology landscape.

"ITF, in recent years especially, has become a valuable means of seeding new technologies. We believe it is important to be a part of this as a means to ensure the UK energy industry remains buoyant and has the technological capabilities to sustain future growth."

Adding to this, John Boyes, European strategic technology manager for Weatherford said:

"Weatherford is delighted to be a part of ITF. Our clients anticipate and expect us to provide them with most innovative technology solutions available and through ITF we are ideally placed to identify and deliver the best solutions to the task in hand. Our ITF membership is very much about getting the longer term technology strategy correct."

Originally set up by the major UK operators and the DTI, ITF is now owned by a membership of 14 major operators and two major service companies. A not-for-profit organisation, ITF is governed by a board of appointed directors that of which now includes Weatherford's chief technology officer, Stuart Ferguson.

ITF identifies E&P technology needs and fosters the development of new technologies. To date, ITF has been responsible for creating 100 joint industry projects and delivering several revolutionary technologies into the market. ■