

ITF's UK-Norway drilling seminar hailed a success



The Panel (LtoR) David Liddle, technology manager for ITF, Eamonn McGennis, business and planning manager for Helix Well Ops and Dr Mikhail Gelfgat, president and CEO of Aquatic, who spoke on behalf of Weatherford

More than 60 delegates from all over the world attended the first ever joint UK-Norway technology event hosted by ITF at Ardoe House in Aberdeen.

ITF brought operators, service companies, technology developers and academia together to discuss and assess advanced drilling techniques. Findings from which will be used by ITF to formulate a new technical call for proposals that will be issued this year.

The event took the form of an interactive seminar where speakers from the UK, Norway, and representatives from Russia began by giving an overview of employed drilling techniques and outlined gaps in current industry techniques.

A keynote speaker at the event, StatoilHydro's R&D drilling and wells project manager, Arne Torsvoll spoke about the importance of ITF and events like this.

"The importance of ITF and its role is obvious. But ITF is also an information vehicle for us to understand what is happening in the global technology market. Many projects facilitated by ITF reflect the challenges faced in the Norwegian energy sector.

"The UK technology market is more advanced than in Norway. I believe this is partly due to ITF in its role to continually identify and develop new technologies in response to industry requirements.

"This event presented us with the ideal opportunity by which to see what is happening in other regions and also understand how and where the challenges we face in Norway are comparable to the global market."

Recognising the importance of collaboration, ITF partnered with Norway for this event in the hope that both sides of the North Sea technology development community and those further a field, could input and benefit from future developments in advanced drilling techniques.

Making his first presentation as a member of ITF, Eamonn McGennis, business and planning manager for Helix Well Ops took to the stage to talk about drilling techniques from the contractor's perspective. Speaking at the event, Eamonn said:

"This is the second time I have done a presentation at an ITF event but I am happy to say that this is my first time standing here as a representative of one of ITF's member companies.

"I had previously participated in the event ITF jointly hosted with Subsea UK and it was through this that I realised the true benefits of becoming a member of ITF.

"At Well Ops we are continually undertaking research into how to improve recovery in subsea wells. We need to find new and cost effective ways by which to get more out of subsea wells and ITF has opened doors for us to be able to

discuss new, innovative technologies that will allow us to do this."

Commenting on the success of the event, David Liddle, technology manager at ITF added:

"To be able to take in the different perspectives of the operators, service companies, innovators and academics on the theme of advanced drilling techniques, was a great opportunity and of enormous benefit.

"Findings from this event are extremely valuable. Understanding industry requirements and having detailed, first hand knowledge of the challenges faced by many companies working in the global drilling sector is the first stage in the ITF 'process'.

"The findings from this event will provide the foundation to formulate a call for technology proposals that is synonymous to what is actually required by the operators and service companies not just in the North Sea but world-wide. We expect to issue our call before the end of year."

ITF was set up by the major UK operators and the DTI, to identify E&P technology needs and foster the development of new technologies and is directed by a board made up of its member companies.

To date, ITF has been responsible for facilitating more than 100 joint industry projects which have delivered several revolutionary technologies to market. ■