

Troika creates data room for Ghana

Ghana is creating a national data repository (NDR) to collate and preserve geoscience and petroleum engineering data.

The dataroom will host data on more than 181 onshore and offshore wells and more than 94,669 km² 2D and 21,000 km² 3D seismic data as well as cuttings, drilling mud samples and cores.

Ghana started producing oil in commercial quantities through the commissioning of the Jubilee field in 2010. The Ghanaian Petroleum Commission (PC) was founded in 2011 and inherited a huge volume of seismic tapes and supporting documents in a wide variety of media and formats.

Seismic data management company Troika International is helping the PC to catalogue and upload the data to disk on a 'file per line' basis.

All of the seismic data was on IBM 3590 or 3592 cartridges, including older data that had previously been remastered from 9-track tapes and 3480 cartridges and converted from SEGA, SEGB and SEGC to SEG Y format.

Troika worked with PC staff to sort field and post-stack seismic data into survey line groups then verify the contents of the cartridges and supporting documentation. Other data types such as well information were also identified and catalogued. Prior to loading to disk, all the seismic datasets were passed through quality control and verification processes



A truckload of seismic tapes awaiting quality control before uploading to the Ghanaian national data repository.

to ensure subsequent problem-free workstation access and/or input to reprocessing sequences.

Several issues were encountered, including corrupt data blocks, missing data, embedded end-of-file marks and blank tape between data blocks. Media were found to be mislabelled and there were often inconsistencies in survey and/or line names. Some datasets were found to deviate from defined SEG standards and incorrect information was often identified in file and trace headers.

'Bringing together and making available online all the seismic assets of a company or country may seem simple in principle but often encounters challenges such as inconsistencies in recording and processing formats and labelling, sometimes compounded by errors in transcription,' said Jill Lewis, managing director of Troika International. 'Correcting these errors and ensuring adherence to industry standards adds considerably to these valuable assets and will help encourage investment by international E&P companies.'