

The Forties Field; Past, Present & Future

James Crowley (Apache North Sea)

The Forties Field in the North Sea typifies many oilfields in that it demonstrates a completely normal life cycle of discovery, appraisal, development and decline. Yet in many senses, the Forties field is remarkable; from its vast size, grand-scale homogeneity and primary recovery to its fine-scale heterogeneity and remaining opportunities. Its past is dominated by “big-company” development and operations, while its present is controlled by “small-company” vales and processes. Its future will be dominated by economics and inventiveness. Each is appropriate and it is the duty of the incumbent operator to maximise the value at their respective stage.