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Bridging the Gap Between the Exploration Organization and Its Partners

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ABSTRACT

After a prospect is identified, exploration wells require many steps and approvals from staking the location through post drill analysis. This process typically requires geo-scientists to spend 20% to 40% of their valuable time tracking these activities to ensure the right action is taken at the right time.

Location staking, site preparation, drilling approval, geologic requirements, post drill analysis and the decision to suspend or abandon the well represent critical steps which require geo-scientist's support (time) to obtain the required management approvals. An online data collection and approval system, called "Escheduler" was developed to automate this workflow. The new automated workflow captures all information required for management approvals and forwards the work to other organizations for action. This new system has improved both quality and efficiency by preventing erroneous data and coordinates being used and by preventing tasks from being repeated unnecessarily.

Escheduler also provides new tools to assist scheduling exploration wells and to electronically communicate the Exploration Schedule to Drilling. Exploration frequently changes their drilling plan, requiring close coordination with Drilling. With more than a tenfold increase in Exploration activity during the past few years, doing these tasks manually through adhoc communication is not feasible anymore. "Escheduler" not only helps with scheduling Exploration wells and rig assignments, but it also shows the readiness of pre-drilling tasks for every well. For example it shows whether the well site has been staked, if the pads are ready for the rig to be brought in and if the required water supply wells are drilled and ready for use. Delay in these pre-drilling tasks affects the drilling plan and wastes rig time. Ability to track pre-drilling tracking helped Exploration ensure, that planned spud dates are not missed.

Escheduler also provides several dashboards which pull data from legacy drilling systems to allow management to monitor pre, while and post drilling activities in addition to cost tracking analysis. Plans are being developed to improve system intelligence to support streamlining and optimizing the entire Exploration life cycle. These optimizations have saved rig and geo-scientists time and have made the process easier to follow, thus saving millions of dollars.