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Strategic University Alliance: Energy & Geoscience Institute (Utah) and Imperial College (London) Combine Forces for Industry Across the Atlantic

In 2000 the Energy & Geoscience Institute at the University of Utah and Imperial College London created a strategic alliance. The purpose of this alliance is technology transfer to industry, peer assists for members of the institute's Corporate associate program, and collaborative projects between university researchers. Joint conferences have included hosting the EGI's Corporate Associate technical meetings, the Institute's Advisory Board, the Technical Alliance for Computation Stratigraphy meetings, and university guest participation in Imperial Colleges Master's program annual reservoir characterization field trips, all creating synergy between the two organizations. The alliance encourages peer assist activities where EGI & IC scientists lend their expertise to industry at the level of Exploration Directors and to company teams as second opinions. Areas of cooperative research expanded to include a major industry supported research project in transgressive sandstones using outcrop analogs in the Cretaceous of the U.S. western interior for fields in the North Sea. By leveraging the scientific strengths of each organization the best in joint upstream oriented research projects can be achieved. Imperial's strengths in reservoir sedimentology and modeling are enhanced by EGI's high resolution chronostratigraphic expertise. Thirty-one international petroleum companies participated in the program in 2003 (Amerada Hess, Anadarko, Apache, BHP, BP, CEPSA, ConocoPhillips, Chevron-Texaco, El Paso, EnCana, Hunt Oil, Kerr McGee, Marathon, Nexen, Noble Energy, Novus, Nuevo Energy, Oxy, OceanEnergy, Paladin, PetroCanada, Preusagg-Energie, Repsol-YPF, Samson, Sipetrol, Shell, Statoil, Talisman, TotalFinaElf, Vintage, Wintershall). This successful alliance serves as a model for other university groups looking to work closely with industry.