

From Ideas to Profits

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Abstract

As geoscientists, we are encouraged to come up with new ideas. Sometimes they are ideas about an existing play or established petroleum system or mature basin. In each case, many senior managers in oil and gas companies encourage us to seek out new prospects for drilling. In my experience, we have done this extremely well, both as a profession and as an industry. There have been many times in my career when some individuals have pronounced the Gulf of Mexico past its prime. Given the level of activity we see in the GOM today, I think we can conclude that it is alive and well. During my talk I'll give you an example of one of my colleague's good ideas that she was able to turn into a successful discovery that will yield future profits for Statoil.

There have been many acquisitions in our industry over the years. Usually the discussion before and after is about the price paid and the synergies that can be achieved. What about the basis for these acquisitions? Or said another way, what did the geoscience community bring to the acquisition? I will discuss a recent example in which Statoil acquired Brigham Exploration. The foundation of that acquisition was the people in the Brigham organization and their development of the Bakken in the Williston Basin.

Lastly, we are seeking new frontiers. Plays or basins that are underexplored are just waiting for a group of bright geoscientists to put together the pieces to justify bidding for acreage and eventually for drilling a well to test their ideas. Recently there have been a number of large discoveries on the East Coast of Africa. Statoil has taken part in this recent success, with two discoveries in Tanzania. The journey to get to those discoveries will be presented.