

Lessons from the 1980s in Oman

Alan Heward¹

¹Independent

Abstract

The 1980s in Oman was a time of challenges to be overcome, yet great optimism for the future. Heavy oil fields in South Oman were brought onstream, EOR trials began (unusual at that time for the region), the price of oil collapsed, some exploration companies withdrew without fully evaluating wells with shows, and a major breakthrough occurred with horizontal wells drilled in good quality reservoirs. The forecast requirement for gas for thermal EOR led to a dedicated gas exploration programme which with success, including an element of serendipity, opened a new chapter of gas and condensate production for the Sultanate.