
How the Geoscience Experience and Technology Gaps can be Filled

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ABSTRACT

The 2005 through 2010 changes in the oil industry have been more volatile than the historical cycles in two separate ways. The United States is leading the way in unconventional gas resources and in deepwater exploration and development, relatively new and cutting edge technological challenges for resource development, and the demographics of technical experience are still bimodal in character: that is, our failure to hire from the early 1980s to the late 1990s has created an experience gap and difficulty in technology transfer. How will the gap be filled? Can it be narrowed using recently developed knowledge management strategies? What particular skills are now needed, and how can they be most effectively developed? What are the major emerging technologies that need attention? Will it involve seismic acquisition, seismic processing, electromagnetic technologies, drilling technologies, or others? A survey of working geoscientists, company managers, and training and education professionals addresses these issues and attempts to provide insights and cooperative information to help share solutions to the difficult problems our industry must address over the next one to two decades.