

Challenging Dogmas and Unveiling Hidden Potential in Oil & Gas Exploration

This project was aimed at optimizing resources and identifying missed pay zones in an area of declining production. To achieve this, the client needed expert perspectives outside of the existing entrenched geological models. The project allowed the client to broaden their thinking by encountering alternative interpretations, insights, and models.

Challenge

The client, a seasoned player in the energy sector, was facing a significant challenge in a mature offshore area. Over three decades of extensive exploration and development, the mature gas production was significantly declining. The focus shifted towards optimizing the remaining resources and identifying missed pay zones. However, the geological models supporting production and development were deeply ingrained within the organization, making it difficult to challenge existing assumptions and explore alternative models effectively.

Solution

To address this challenge, the client sought an independent perspective from an expert with unique experience in the basin. They engaged ThinkOnward's project team that sourced and hired an XiR (expert in residence) who had previously served as the exploration manager for the original O&G company that discovered the resource back in the 1990s. This XiR brought invaluable legacy knowledge and an outsider's perspective, allowing them the freedom to explore ideas beyond the constraints of the client team. The XiR was able to revisit the existing models and propose alternative interpretations by leveraging the latest 3D seismic dataset, comprehensive well data, and additional academic insights.

Area of Expertise:
Development

Enterprise Solution:
ThinkOnward Projects



Implementation

The project was thoughtfully planned and executed, striking a balance between project direction and the XiR's freedom to explore unexpected outcomes. Armed with the latest 3D seismic dataset, comprehensive well data, and insights from academia, the collaborative data analysis sessions between the XiR and the client team delved deep into the reservoir. Through this process they unearthed hidden insights and fearlessly questioned long-standing assumptions.

Result

The project, which spanned 26 weeks part-time, exceeded expectations. The enthusiastic engagement of the XiR, coupled with their extensive experience, led to the generation of specific technical insights that were previously unconsidered by the client team. These insights were enthusiastically embraced by multiple stakeholders within the organization and seamlessly integrated into the internal project.

It is evident that the outcomes of the project have already begun to influence decision-making processes. The XiR's recommendations are shaping evaluation procedures for the acreage, with a renewed proposal for reprocessing of seismic data gaining traction. Moreover, the project provided the client team with shared experiences that broadened their thinking and challenged long-standing assumptions

Conclusion

In revisiting pastures past with this project, the client successfully leveraged external expertise to overcome the challenges posed by a mature offshore area. By inviting an XiR with unparalleled experience and granting them the freedom to explore unexpected outcomes, the client unlocked valuable insights that are now shaping the future trajectory of their operations. This case exemplifies the power of collaboration and innovation in revitalizing established assets and maximizing their value potential.

- **Accelerated Results** - Delivery of fresh technical insights in 26 weeks for a mature area that has been in production for over three decades
- **Broadened Thinking** - Results empowered the client team to broaden their perspectives and assumptions, breaking through dogmas and revitalizing exploration efforts
- **Enhanced Agility and Adaptability** - New interpretations bolstered the proposal to reevaluate and reprocess existing seismic data.

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