

# There has never been a better time for great ideas . . .

**R2S is bucking the current trend and bringing new technology to market in under two years**

## ASSET MANAGEMENT

# R2S

BY BOB DONNELLY

As I sat down to plan my schedule, and the conference sessions I will be attending at SPE Intelligent Energy this month, a simple line within the preview brochure I'd been sent struck me as profoundly accurate.

*"For the oil & gas sector it has never been a better time for great ideas."*

This is the first year Aberdeen has played host to SPE Intelligent Energy, but it is an event that my team and I are very familiar with – having first exhibited at the event in Utrecht in 2014. The intrinsic link between asset management and intelligent energy drawing us back to exhibit once again this year.

I don't need to remind readers of Energy that the lessons learned dur-

ing the downturn, have shown us all that our industry has not always operated in the most intelligent way.

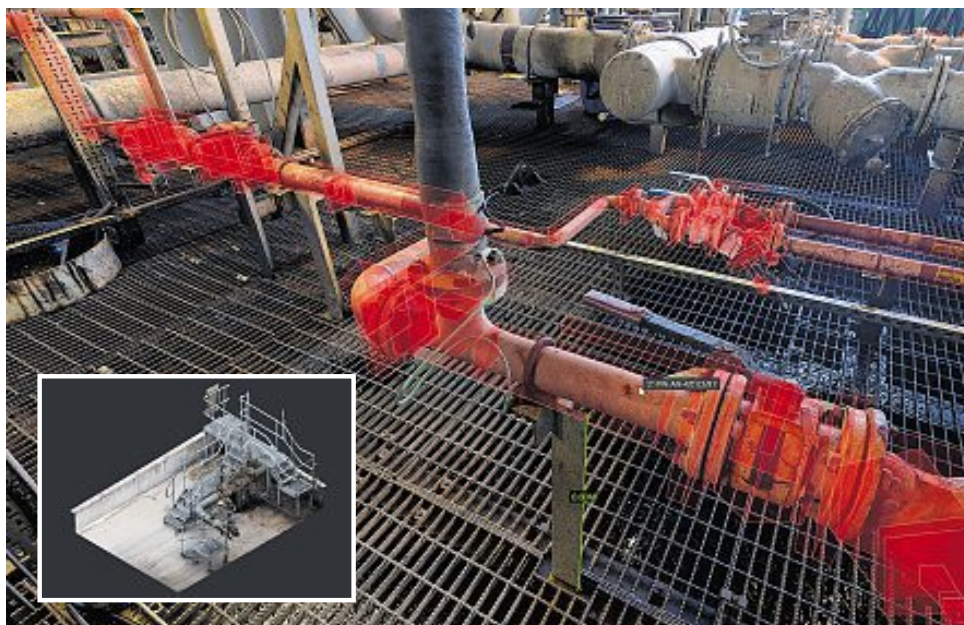
In terms of the implementation of great ideas, however, lengthy research and development (R&D) cycles; a disinclination to trial innovation and bureaucratic procurement processes, have only exacerbated this situation.

But oil & gas is adapting to change and pressure from industry bodies, government and most importantly, the global market.

Solutions to current industry challenges are being proffered from all directions and not necessarily where you'd expect them to come from such as; small companies, created by the engineer made redundant, or other industries and the organic development of the internet of things (IoT).

But will these be field trialed and implemented? How long will this take?

Back in 2014, Intelligent Energy's introductory presentation was given by a NASA scientist and focused on some of the greatest technical and management challenges in the world today. What I didn't know at that time was the current "time to market" process for new technologies in the oil &



Be among the first to see R2S Mosaic in action at SPE Intelligent Energy 2016, September 6-8 at the AECC

gas industry varies depending upon source to between 15 and 20 years!

Ironic when you think that man's first moon walk took just over eight years from idea to realisation! But, just as the need for supremacy during the Cold War space race fuelled technological advancement, the battle for a sustainable future for oil & gas is driving an innovative counter-offensive.

Historically, this time period has acclimatised to meet the changing envi-

**"This next generation of visual asset management technology has already been field tested"**

ronment facing the industry – necessity after all, is the mother of invention. Indeed, the crossroad of the business and economic needs of our industry in the face of the downturn is changing the thinking behind corporate strategy, investment priorities and effective production.

As my team and I prepare to launch R2S Mosaic, the next generation of our award-winning visual asset management technology, we are thrilled to be at the forefront of great ideas, innovation and providing intelligent solutions to the challenges facing the wider industry. In terms of "time to market", we are bucking the trend.

This next generation of visual asset management technology has already been field tested. With the support of

Scottish Enterprise, we've successfully conducted a feasibility study, R&D and field testing in under two years.

Our technology utilises the technique of using photographs to create a highly accurate point cloud. Complementing its existing visual asset management system, this enhances the role of the technology within the digital oilfield and Internet of Things (IoT) – proving that great ideas, innovation and solutions to industry challenges can come from all directions.

**R2S Mosaic is being launched at SPE Intelligent Energy 2016, September 6-8 at the AECC. Be among the first to see it in action on stand B21.**

Bob Donnelly is MD of Return To Scene Ltd

# Easier for majors to adapt than cash-poor juniors

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entire congregation (aka the North Sea industry) singing off the hymn sheet?

Garrett: "I think your observation is correct. Because the larger companies including the one that I work for, have global businesses and a lot of in-house capability. They have considerable resources that small companies perhaps don't.

"I think the challenge is a good one. What's exciting about it is, with the OGA (Oil & Gas Authority) having been established, and with people like Carlo Procaccini whose job it is to pursue and evaluate new technology, this sort of challenge can be tackled.

"It's his job to figure this out. That's really positive. We've got recognition by the UK government and the OGA that technology is important.

"Implicit in that is figuring out how we make it work for the diversity of operators. So, we've been happy to share what we've been doing with the OGA, also with the Oil & Gas Technology Centre (OGTC) that's starting up."

**From wells to other things**

O'Brien: "In more general terms, we do have the challenge of how do you get

better take-up of new technology at all; even if I go back to the work we're doing ourselves in the drilling and well construction areas.

"It's surprising how much technology that's there and yet there's a great reluctance to take it up and embrace it." That's what baffles Energy about this industry . . . the sometimes battle against new technology; a deep reluctance to accept change and pioneer.

However, in spite of itself and despite the rhetoric against technology, reality is that the oil & gas industry has come a long way over the past 25 years. But it has to go further and faster.

"I don't think we should be beating ourselves up," agreed O'Brien. "We're pretty innovative as an industry.

"But maybe we could have had a better culture of sharing than we have. And perhaps a lot of us have been trying to do things on our own, whereas better progress might have been made, had we shared more.

"At ITF, we've launched our Technology Innovation Network and one of

the things we're very keen to do through that mechanism is to share knowledge on first adopted technologies and early uses of it with a view to helping others, especially smaller companies of the kind referred to earlier.

"I'm open to some of

those smaller companies. What they might say is: 'OK, we don't have the resource to go and develop this technology ourselves, but we certainly want to articulate what our technology challenges are and we certainly want to know what's out there so we can adopt it'. I think we (ITF) need to try and help that process a bit more."

Garrett said Chevron was definitely among the innovators.

"The centre I manage is just heading up to its 10th anniversary. Chevron chose to set up a technology centre in the UK 10 years ago. We're very active in earth science, facilities and health & safety, and reservoir and technical computing all around the world.

"I'm very excited about the advances we're still making. This is a very exciting industry to be in from a technology point of view and I have an organisation full of people who feel the same way.

Dr Steve Garrett, manager of Chevron's Global Technology Centre in Aberdeen

