

## Harrell elected CEO, chairman; Cruce retires

*Roesle becomes president, COO; Williamson, Hodgkin promoted to executive vice presidents*



Harrell



Cruce



Roesle



Williamson



Hodgkin



Warner

**Ronald Harrell**, former president, is the new chairman of the board and chief executive officer at Ryder Scott Company L.P. **Raymond Cruce**, who had been chairman and CEO since 1972, retired. The board of directors also elected the following officers. **Don Roesle**, former executive vice president, is the president and chief operating officer. **Kent Williamson**, former senior vice president, is the executive vice president—engineering. **John Hodgkin**, former senior vice president, is the executive vice president—geoscience.

**John Warner**, senior vice president, is the new director—international operations and will oversee and coordinate international consulting assignments. The following personnel were promoted to vice president: **Herman Acuña**, **John Hanko**, **James Latham**, **Dick Rains** and **Andy Thompson**. Also, **Anne Heard**, former office manager, was promoted to vice president—finance/administration.

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### Retired CEO guided the evolution of Ryder Scott

Newly retired CEO Ray Cruce guided the evolution of Ryder Scott beginning in the late 1960s as it intensified its business focus on independent petroleum reserves estimations. Before that, Ryder Scott was known for designing waterflood and secondary-recovery projects starting in the late 1930s in Pennsylvania.

By 1946, the 60-employee firm had clients in the United States and in several countries outside North America and its business design-

*Please see Cruce on Page 2*



Ray Cruce (sitting) reviews company agenda in the mid 1970s with (from left) Charles Milner, a former president; William Fickert, a former senior vice president, and Harry Gaston, current president emeritus.

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Acuña



Hanko



Latham



Rains



Thompson



Heard

**Promotions—Cont. from Page 1**

Harrell became president in 1998. Previous to that, he was executive vice president, a position he held since 1991. Harrell joined Ryder Scott in 1968 and has conducted reservoir engineering and geological studies throughout the United States and internationally for numerous clients.

He is the 1999-2000 chairman of the Society of Petroleum Engineers Reserves Committee. Harrell has a Bachelor of Science degree, Magna cum Laude, in petroleum engineering from Louisiana Tech University.

**Publisher's Statement**

*Reservoir Solutions* newsletter is published quarterly by Ryder Scott Company LP Petroleum Consultants. Established in 1937, the reservoir evaluation consulting firm performs more than 1,000 studies a year. Ryder Scott has issued reports on more than 200,000 wells or producing entities in North America. The firm has also evaluated hundreds of international oil and gas properties involving thousands of wells. Ryder Scott multidisciplinary studies incorporate geophysics, petrophysics, geology, petroleum engineering, reservoir simulation and economics. With 117 employees, including 66 engineers and geoscientists, Ryder Scott has the capability to complete the largest, most complex reservoir-evaluation projects in a timely manner.

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Cruce joined Ryder Scott in 1966. "We at Ryder Scott are grateful for his more than three decades of service. Ray's leadership and dedication along with the hard work of others are responsible for the current stature of Ryder Scott in the petroleum industry," said Harrell.

Roesle joined Ryder Scott in 1975. He became vice president in 1979, senior vice president in 1995 and executive vice president in 1998. Roesle has supervised reservoir engineers in ongoing evaluation studies for numerous clients.

Before joining Ryder Scott, he was a petroleum reservoir engineer at Tenneco Oil Corp. Roesle received Bachelors of Science and Masters of Science degrees in petroleum engineering from the University of Texas in 1971 and 1973, respectively.

**Cruce—Cont. from Page 1**

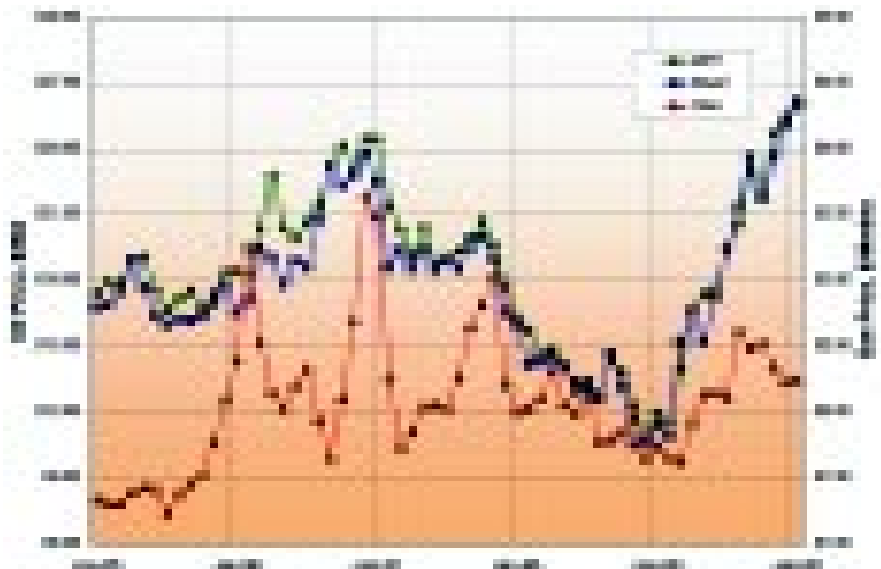
ing secondary-recovery projects flourished. But a change was in the making beginning in 1967, when Ryder Scott moved from Wichita Falls, TX, to Houston, acquired Robert W. Harrison & Co. and hired Cruce, who had been a partner there for 11 years.

The "marriage" of Ryder Scott and Harrison, a consulting company known for advanced skills in reservoir evaluation, provided the right balance of skills. The newer, larger firm was able to offer a full range of services—from classical reservoir engineering to full field-development studies.

After the incorporation of Ryder Scott in 1967, Cruce became a senior vice president and director. By 1970, Ryder Scott had

*Please see Cruce on Page 4*

**Benchmark oil and U.S. composite gas price history**



The West Texas Intermediate Crude (WTI) prices are the posted prices of Exxon Co. USA published in the *Crude Oil Price Bulletin Summary*. Composite spot gas prices are the wellhead prices published in the *Natural Gas Week* newsletter. Brent oil prices are the published, posted prices available to the general public from commodity quotation services over the Internet.

# Deepwater Gulf of Mexico projects benefit from quick-turnaround reservoir simulation analysis

— Thomas Wagenhofer,  
Ryder Scott petroleum engineer



Wagenhofer

High-risk, high-reward exploration projects in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico (GOM) represent some of the greatest challenges facing the oil and gas industry today. The

successful quest for profitable deepwater hydrocarbons not only depends on careful geoscientific analysis, but on a thorough understanding of reservoir performance.

More often than not, decisions to move forward with billion-dollar investments are based on data from just one or two well penetrations and integrated seismic, little or no data from cores or flow tests and limited information on reservoir performance. Where there is little well control, reservoir simulation has become an indispensable tool for combining engineering and geoscientific principles to help quantify reservoir performance, uncertainties and risks. The tool can also be used to help quantify the value of certain data.

In the deepwater GOM, the predominant productive geologic formations are young, unconsolidated, turbidite deposits. During

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**“Simplified, conceptual, yet properly designed models with reasonable assumptions for unknown rock and fluid properties allow for “what-if” scenarios that quantify uncertainty in all key reservoir parameters as well as their effects on recovery.”**

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Vastar Resources Inc. conducted exploratory drilling with the Diamond Offshore Ocean Victory semi-submersible rig at the King prospect in Mississippi Canyon Block 764 in 1998. Before drilling the proposed well bore in the Gulf of Mexico deepwater, the operator reviewed the results of a small-scale reservoir simulation study prepared by Thomas Wagenhofer, now an engineer with Ryder Scott Petroleum Consultants. The study focused on the combined effects of reservoir compaction and water encroachment from a nearby aquifer. Vastar anticipates initial production from the discovery later this year.

exploration and early development of identified reservoirs, the key to building a reliable simulation model is to focus on reservoir parameters with the most impact on performance, namely sand continuity/connectivity and reservoir drive mechanism.

In particular, the degree of compaction potential is extremely important, as some deposits may exhibit complex rock compressibility behavior with peak values exceeding  $60.0 \times 10^{-6} \text{ psi}^{-1}$ . Mechanistic studies performed by Ryder Scott have shown that recovery from a combination compaction/depletion drive may be as low as 10 percent of the original oil in place (OOIP) in low-compaction or depletion-dominated reservoirs and more than 35 percent of the OOIP in reservoirs with high rock compressibility. While these recovery factors apply to a specific

prospect for a specific set of PVT properties, they illustrate the significance of compaction in deepwater GOM reservoirs.

Simplified, conceptual, yet properly designed models with reasonable assumptions for unknown rock and fluid properties allow for “what-if” scenarios that quantify uncertainty in all key reservoir parameters as well as their effects on recovery. The varying results are then incorporated into the decision-making process at different stages of exploration and development.

Typical decisions involve where to drill the next well, what additional data to gather, what is the value (costs vs. benefits) of acquiring additional data, whether to proceed with field development and what is the best

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## Training seminars hone skills of internal staffs

Ryder Scott performs about a thousand studies a year to meet a variety of reporting requirements established by various regulatory agencies worldwide. Oil and gas companies that operate in narrower environments cannot possibly possess this breadth of experience. However Ryder Scott, through its reserves training seminars, shares its knowledge base with the industry. The fees range from no cost in a pro-bono arrangement to several thousand dollars for an in-depth three-day on-site presentation.

Ryder Scott presented a training seminar this year at Sonat Exploration Co. that fulfilled needs typical of other clients. Larry Brewer, director of reserves and valuation at Sonat at that time, asked Ryder Scott to present an on-site seminar to the company's technical personnel. The goal was to educate the personnel in charge of forecasting proved reserves through a review and discussion of current issues.

"I was charged with ensuring that our staff was trained to fully understand and adhere to reporting requirements and reserves definitions," Brewer said. "I asked Ryder Scott to conduct the seminar because its personnel are recognized within the industry as experts in these fields."

Presenters and attendees tackled such technical issues as discriminating between proved and probable reserves and attaining the required reasonable certainty of recovery for proved reserves. The agenda included reserves definitions, engineering and geological pitfalls, audits vs. full-scale evaluations, quality control and coalbed methane evaluation.

"The presentation on reserves definitions stimulated much discussion and was very well received. We were, in general, familiar with reserves-estimation practices, but Ryder Scott clarified some issues



Larry Brewer, then director of reserves and valuation at Sonat Exploration Co., reviews a Ryder Scott seminar summary.

we had encountered applying those practices," said Brewer.

Ryder Scott also presents less technical seminars to the financial community. Typically program agenda includes principles of reservoir geology and engineering, E&P activities and reserves estimates and economic forecasts.

For further information, contact Ron Harrell, CEO, at 713-651-9191, ext. 200 or at [ron\\_harrell@ryderscott.com](mailto:ron_harrell@ryderscott.com).

### *Cruce—Cont. from Page 2*

engineered about 700 waterfloods for almost 300 operators. However, Cruce's background was primarily in reserves estimations. He sensed greater opportunities for that type of work, so he began contacting financial institutions after he became chairman of the board and president in 1972.

New York investment bankers and other commercial lenders, keen on reducing the risks associated with reserves-based lending, listened to Cruce, whose personality and credibility helped open doors. The bankers were convinced that third-party certification of reserves was the best method of establishing a reasonable value for petroleum properties used as collateral.

"I assured the lenders that Ryder Scott was a company of integrity and honesty and was well qualified to perform those studies," Cruce said.

Reservoir evaluations became the mainstay of the firm as bankers recommended to their clients that they obtain reports from reputable evaluation

firms as prerequisites for loan considerations. Ryder Scott's name became a standard on most bankers' lists of qualified evaluators.

Cruce's official resume reads that as the CEO, he "supervised all activities of the company." Cruce did everything from meeting with oil company chief executives to compiling revenue figures on a monthly basis.

Up until his retirement, Cruce made detailed presentations to the Ryder Scott board of directors and planning committee members as he reeled off facts and figures on accounting, budgeting, office expansions, work loads, purchasing and virtually every facet of company operations.

An industry veteran of 54 years, Cruce began his career as a petroleum engineer and geologist with Gulf Oil Corp. in 1946. Ryder Scott employees and clients will miss Cruce but wish him the very best in his retirement. Congratulatory cards and letters should be sent to Mr. Ray Cruce, c/o Ryder Scott Co., attn: Sandy Wilder, 1100 Louisiana, Suite 3800, Houston, TX 77002-5218.

## Ryder Scott hosts two SPE Gulf Coast seminars

Ryder Scott will host two Society of Petroleum Engineers Gulf Coast section seminars on reservoir simulation in April. Three of the four instructors are Ryder Scott engineers. For information, contact Julie Myers, SPE-GCS, Voice: 713-779-9595, Fax: 713-779-4216, or e-mail [ddria@shellus.com](mailto:ddria@shellus.com). Reservations can be made online at [www.spegcs.org](http://www.spegcs.org) or by fax to (713) 779-4216 using the reservation form

included in the Gulf Coast section newsletter. Reservation deadlines are noon, Tuesday, March 28. Ryder Scott offices are located at 1100 Louisiana St., Suite 3800, Houston, TX 77002. Daily parking is within walking distance for \$9 to \$11. The parking garage attached to the Hyatt Hotel is \$10 per day and allows access to Ryder Scott offices through a tunnel.

### Fundamentals of Reservoir Simulation: An Equations-Free Overview

**Date:** Tuesday, April 4

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Cost:** \$195 for SPE members, \$245 for nonmembers

**Course description:** The instructors introduce the fundamental concepts of reservoir simulation in a fast-paced fashion for those desiring an overview before getting more deeply involved. After completing the course, attendees inexperienced in simulation should understand the basics, such as why and how a model are built, what data sources are used, how wells are modeled and what a company looks for in a simulation study. Attendees that stand to benefit the most are those with little exposure to the technology, but who need a "quick start" on the learning curve. These attendees might include managers, non-reservoir engineers, team leaders and new college hires.



Robertson

#### Instructors

Grant Robertson, coordinator of integrated studies, joined Ryder Scott in 1999. He coordinates subsurface studies integrating geology, geophysics and engineering. Robertson has a Ph.D. degree in chemical engineering from the California Institute of Technology. He has worked in California, Saudi Arabia and Texas at Chevron Corp.

for 15 years and at British Petroleum Plc for 10 years. For the past 19 years, he has specialized in reservoir studies; simulation software development, maintenance and user support; simulation research, schools and workshops.



Gochnour

J. Robert Gochnour, a consulting reservoir engineer in the BP Amoco Upstream Technology Group, has more than 23 years' petroleum technology experience. He received a Ph.D. degree in petroleum and natural gas engineering from Pennsylvania State University. Gochnour has been involved in the research, development, and application of reservoir simulators and engineering and production technology with Gulf Oil Corp. (9 years), Chevron Corp. (6 years), Scientific Software-Intercomp (2 years) and PGS Tigriss (5 years).

and PGS Tigriss (5 years).

### Reservoir Simulation for Practical Decision Making

**Date:** Wednesday, April 5, and Thursday, April 6

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days

**Cost:** \$295 for SPE members, \$345 for nonmembers

**Course description:** This two-day technical introduction is for those planning to conduct, review or oversee a reservoir simulation study as well as for experienced modelers wanting to review details. The instructors will discuss all-important facets of the reservoir-modeling process, especially factors that dramatically impact the model results. All material is essential for understanding simulation complexities. Topics include data acquisition, fluid properties, rock-fluid interaction, grid construction, history matching and prediction cases. Attendees will learn how to plan and conduct a reservoir study and how to review an outside study. Instructors will present models they have constructed. Attendees are encouraged to bring materials and non-confidential data, including maps, from a planned project. Using these materials, the class and instructors will discuss the best approach to achieve study objectives.



Rietz

**Instructors:** Dean C. Rietz, vice president and manager-reservoir simulation at Ryder Scott, has more than a decade of diverse experience in numerical modeling approaches for evaluating oil and gas reservoirs and properties. He has built a variety of simulation models, including full field, segment and single well models (vertical and horizontal). Rietz's

experience includes black-oil, compositional and thermal formulations. The applications for his studies range from waterflood development to gas-storage project development.



Palke

Miles R. Palke, petroleum engineer at Ryder Scott, has in-depth, hands-on experience building full-field and sector models using ECLIPSE, ACRES and IMEX. In addition to constructing models, Mr. Palke has a wide range of experience auditing and revising models created by others. He also performs fluid characterizations, well-test analyses and geostatistical studies.

## Gulf of Mexico Blocks with Areas Evaluated by Ryder Scott



Although individual areas cannot be differentiated here, this map is a smaller representation of a larger map that plots in detail the more than 1,600 GOM blocks with areas that have been evaluated by Ryder Scott. At the request of interested parties, the firm examines the map and checks a cross-reference system for reserves reports available for review. The cross-reference system electronically stores information from tens of thousands of reports on GOM and international properties. Companies interested in computing screening economics for a particular property in the Gulf of Mexico and elsewhere frequently ask Ryder Scott to check its cross-reference system. Ryder Scott always protects confidential information and only shares data with specified parties after approval has been granted by the client for which the report was done. Ryder Scott has evaluated approximately two-thirds of all producing properties in the gulf.

### Simulation—Cont. from Page 3

development plan.

Performance issues addressed with reservoir simulation include the following:

(1) While well locations may seem intuitively obvious from geologic mapping, considering the limited amount of data available, simulation sensitivity studies may help optimize well spacing and locations through investigations of well interference based on uncertainties in predicting fault sealing, sand-to-sand communication and permeability.

(2) Given the wide range of rock compressibility and associated recovery, particularly in volumetric reservoirs, a simulation study may identify the importance of recovering core and measuring rock-compressibility in future wells to determine compaction potential. This may be especially critical data when concerned with reserves bookings.

(3) Similarly, investigations of various, equally probable aquifer geometries and sizes combined with various compaction-drive potentials will boost confidence in estimates of combination-drive recovery factors.

(4) Compaction may result in permeability reduction caused by a change in pore structure with a concomitant decline in hydrocarbon productivity over time. A series of sensitivity cases may provide valuable information about well productivity changes and their effects on rate of return caused by delayed or reduced recovery.

(5) In cases where waterflood installations are

expected, simulation models may help pinpoint installation timing and possibly defer capital expenses.

(6) While high compaction potential may be desirable as it boosts recovery, it can be the cause of problems with respect to well tubulars. In some instances, the significant change in thickness of reservoir rock due to pore volume reduction has resulted in severe mechanical problems or failures of well tubulars. A properly designed model may help design the right completion scheme for the well by predicting the change in reservoir thickness as a function of depletion.

Most of these quick-turnaround, small-scale simulation studies are completed in anywhere from a few days to a couple of weeks, depending on geologic complexity. The power and beauty of these simulation models stem from the fact that, although they are simplified, they are also customized to focus on key factors needed to make informed decisions.

The ultimate objective is to develop a dynamic process whereby the simulation model is continuously updated with new data as that information becomes available. This creates a live reservoir-management tool that facilitates and accelerates the decision-making process step by step from exploration to development through analyses of only the most critical data.

*Editor's Note: This article and other case studies involving Ryder Scott simulation work were scheduled to be published in Hart's E&P magazine in April.*

## Ryder Scott supports ATP fast-track operations

Last year's Inc. 500 survey of the fastest-growing private companies in the United States had an unlikely rising star from the oil patch. ATP Oil & Gas Corp. was ranked No. 21 in the survey that was heavily populated with high-tech companies. Over a five-year period, the closely held Gulf of Mexico operator grew faster than the 38 other companies from Texas on the *Inc.* magazine list and was the fastest growing energy company in the United States.

"ATP even outpaced dot-com companies in Austin and throughout the country," said Paul Bulmahn, president. "We are pleased to have sustained growth like that over five years."

Sales increased 5,073 percent from 1994 to 1998. ATP's forecast of oil and gas revenues for 2000 is approximately \$100 million, much of that stemming from development that should be on production during the second quarter.

Behind these numbers is a business philosophy that accentuates a high rate of return on investments using the latest production technology on low-risk, marginal gas properties in the gulf. Last year, ATP installed the world's longest hydraulically controlled umbilical package (11.75 miles) that allowed the subsea development of the 520-ft-deep Garden Banks 134 field.

In the February *Oil and Gas Investor* magazine, Bulmahn refers to minimal structures ATP uses in the gulf. "We use everything that technology has given to the industry, from tripods to caisson structures to four piles," he said. Only one of the 20 ATP platforms is manned, he remarked. ATP often has lower overhead than a major.

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**"A major resource for ATP is the Ryder Scott cross-reference system that electronically stores information from thousands of reports on properties in more than 1,600 GOM blocks."**

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### Ryder Scott: A partner from the beginning

ATP's strategy for growth has been to buy marginal offshore properties from majors and larger independents. Then the operator quickly develops the proved undeveloped gas reserves as estimated by Ryder Scott. Both have worked together on acquisitions since ATP began in the early 1990s.

"We have turned to Ryder Scott for an independent analysis of almost every project," said Bulmahn. "We internally screen the projects, but whether our management goes forward usually depends on the Ryder Scott estimates."

ATP's reserves-based lending arrangements that facilitate the financing of property transactions are buttressed by Ryder Scott reports. On short notice,



Gas production from a well drilled in 1998 in the Big Hum Sand series flows to ATP's Brazos Block 544 "A" platform, pictured here, for processing and sales. Ryder Scott evaluated Big Hum before the acquisition and development drilling.

Bulmahn has asked Ryder Scott to act as a liaison with lenders to present its evaluation (U.S. SEC case) of the ATP property portfolio to financiers.

The presentation and other documentation helped establish collateral values to support funding packages put together by ATP for acquisitions of interests in new fields. Ryder Scott personnel also evaluate potential acquisitions and present independent-report information to lenders.

Ryder Scott personnel evaluate seismic, core and log data and integrate that and other information with decline-curve and material-balance analyses to predict performance. Then Ryder Scott analyzes cost structures under economic limits. The cash-flow information has been output to Aries software or converted to ASCII and output in Dwrights Power Tools software, which is commonly used by lenders.

"We go to the bank's offices, bring maps, log measurements, production profiles and other infor-

*Please see ATP on next page*

ATP—Cont. from Page 7

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**“It’s a good bet that if a company is interested in computing screening economics for a particular property in the Gulf of Mexico, we very likely have already evaluated that property. We will certainly check our cross reference system at no cost to the requesting party.”**  
— Ron Harrell, CEO at Ryder Scott.

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mation to do the presentation,” said Samantha Meador, an engineer with Ryder Scott. John Hodgkin, executive vice president-geology at Ryder Scott, has also made presentations and has worked with ATP when it was an upstart almost a decade ago.

“Even though Ryder Scott reserves estimates are considered conservative by some, those numbers are more bankable than estimates of most other consultants,” said Bulmahn.

A major resource for ATP is the Ryder Scott cross-reference system that electronically stores information from thousands of reports on properties in more than 1,600 GOM blocks. Ryder Scott has evaluated two-thirds of all offshore properties in the gulf.

“It’s a good bet that if a company is interested in computing screening economics for a particular property in the Gulf of Mexico, we very likely have already evaluated that property. We will certainly check our cross-reference system at no cost to the requesting party,” said Ron Harrell, CEO of Ryder Scott.

For instance, last year, ATP was interested in acquiring a working interest in a gulf property from another independent, also a client of Ryder Scott. In the fast-moving world of acquisitions and divestitures, ATP wanted to decide quickly, so Ryder Scott,

after receiving permission from the seller, “turned a cash flow” in hours, said Meador.

“We started with our reserves and projections for the property and incorporated ATP’s product price profile and development costs and then electronically transferred an ATP-specific evaluation to the company to support what became a successful bidding effort,” she remarked. “The quick-turn-around, low-cost, cash-flow report was crucial in helping ATP analyze the potential acquisition in an efficient, timely manner.”

Hodgin has also kept pace with ATP’s accelerated schedules. “When we’ve needed a report in a pinch, John has worked nights to deliver it. If he had not been able to deliver, ATP would not have been able to secure some of the projects it has,” said Bulmahn.

More technically complex projects demand more reservoir-evaluation time, such as the Ryder Scott independent study of an ATP horizontal drilling project in West Delta. After acquiring the property, ATP drilled an offshore gas well that was side-tracked and a horizontal lateral was placed in the top of the pay sand last October. The well tested 9 MMcf/D of gas with no water production, said ATP, and the field is now onstream.

“Because of the nature of the hydrocarbon accumulation, this project needed a special solution,” said Meador. “We mapped the hydrocarbon accumulation and supported ATP in technical discussions with potential lenders and financial institutions regarding the expected commerciality of the drilling operation.”

With its latest acquisition of Eugene Island Block 30 early this year, ATP now owns interests in 38 offshore blocks. Almost all of those properties have the Ryder Scott stamp.

“Many projects required funding one by one, so our relationship with Ryder Scott has been critical for ATP,” said Bulmahn. “Our phenomenal success rate on the performance side has benefited greatly by the efforts of Ryder Scott.”

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