Building on its BasinSPAN multiclient library, ION has broadened its scope to include proprietary and multiclient 3-D programs called ResSCANS. Like BasinSPANS, ResSCANS are developed and managed by ION's GeoVentures group and are imaged by ION's GX Technology (GXT) group using the most advanced data processing techniques available. Both offerings encompass multiple industry disciplines to solve the industry's most difficult challenges.

While ION is applying a similar approach to delivering its SPANS and SCANS, the scale, objectives, and outcomes of these two offerings are very different. ION's 2-D BasinSPANS are geologically inspired basin-scale seismic programs that provide E&P companies with the ability to evaluate the geologic evolution, deep basin architecture, and depositional and structural histories of entire petroleum systems in a region. In contrast, ION is applying a reservoir characterization approach to development of its ResSCAN programs, initially focusing on unconventional reservoirs to help operators meet the unique challenges associated with those plays.

ResSCAN programs are custom-designed in collaboration with ION's geo-consulting team, outside specialists, and E&P companies. In resource plays, operators are seeking to understand the variability in rock properties to define more effective horizontal drilling programs and hydraulic fracturing designs. Relying on upfront geological, petrophysical, and rock physics analysis, ION's ResSCAN programs establish which seismic attributes tie the geology and rock physics for a given shale play and, most importantly, impact an operator's drilling and completion engineering decisions and parameters. ION's GeoVentures group serves as project manager and applies the best survey design, acquisition, and processing technologies to the development of all ResSCAN programs. Three ResSCAN programs encompassing more than 1,550 sq km (600 sq miles) are currently under way. In the Marcellus play, acquisition for Phase I of the ClearfieldSCAN program is complete, and recording of LakeviewSCAN is in progress. In the Niobrara, acquisition is set to start in the last quarter of 2011 for the BearCreekSCAN program. All three of these programs incorporate multicomponent acquisition and employ GXT's data processing techniques.

Reservoir Characterization Provides Basis of New Survey Offerings

New 3-D seismic data programs help reduce costs in unconventional reservoirs.

Ice Class Research Vessel Conducts Arctic Survey

Non-seismic vessel refitted for work with ION.

By James Pryor, WGP

Independent British geophysical contractor WGP Exploration Ltd. is currently assisting ION's GeoVentures group with its ongoing Arctic exploration program. WGP provided the source array, recording office, and source workshop components of the Thalassa-owned portable modular source system (PMSS) in addition to the technical crewing required for the 2011 seismic program.

The vessel used for the operation was selected due to its ice class and research capability. Since the vessel is a non-seismic vessel, a custom umbilical winch design was required. A solution was quickly designed by WGP Engineering and subsequently installed under the supervision of the field crew. The PMSS' BOLT Technology annular port gun is ideally suited to the deployment methodology whereby conventional tow plates, spreader bars, and external air and electrical lines are negated. The PMSS' self-sufficient recording office and gun workshop were quick and easy to install, providing instantaneous instrument and workshop facilities.

The PMSS systems were initially designed and constructed to target the permanent reservoir monitoring market, but WGP's approach and equipment flexibility helped provide a custom source solution to ION.

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Eagle Orders More Sigma Cableless Channels from iSeis

PanAmerican Geophysical Establishes New Multiclient Data Company

Eagle Vibroseis specializes in quality 2-D and small 3-D surveys with vib or explosive sources. Eagle’s Leonard Harrand said, “We are very pleased to announce the expansion of our Sigma-based vibroseis operation. The system has operated just as well as the iSeis folks promised, with the ability to monitor and remotely control the deployed spread through the mesh radio and Google Earth, a particularly useful feature.”

iSeis President John Giles said, “We are very happy with the iSeis operation. The system has operated just as well as the iSeis folks promised, with the ability to monitor and remotely control the deployed spread through the mesh radio and Google Earth, a particularly useful feature.”

Stop searching.
Stop compiling.
Stop analyzing.
We’ve done it for you.

PanAmerican Geophysical Company Ltd., a North and South America-focused seismic service company, has established a new company to offer multiclient seismic surveys. The new company, PanAmerican GeoExchange Inc., will concentrate on programs in the US and is actively planning a number of surveys targeting hydrocarbon-bearing shale plays.

PanAmerican GeoExchange Inc. has appointed Tony Clark as president. He will be based in Houston. Clark has grown a number of successful seismic data library businesses in the US over a 27-year career in the industry.

As a graduate of Mississippi State University (MSS) with a BBA in marketing, Clark began his career working for Geophysical Field Surveys then moved to Seismic Exchange Inc. Having gained an impressive sales track record, he became a cofounder and partner in Seismic Assistants Inc., which he grew to become a leading provider of multiclient 3-D surveys in Texas. Following a successful sale of this business, Clark went on to build a portfolio of diversified business ventures outside of the oil service industry.

In 2007, he returned to the seismic industry, setting up a multiclient seismic data division for a mid-sized seismic company. Since then, and until leaving and joining PanAmerican, he has grown that business to have annual sales of more than US $125 million and built a data library asset worth more than $400 million.

Clark serves on the board of the College of Business and Industry at MSU and has been awarded its National Alumni Association’s Distinguished Service Award.

Mark Farine, chief executive officer of PanAmerican Geophysical Co., said, “We are extremely pleased to have Tony join us to lead PanAmerican GeoExchange Inc. He has an unparalleled track record in growing multiclient seismic data businesses in the United States. The establishment of PanAmerican GeoExchange Inc. accelerates our plans to become a leading provider of geophysical data and services in key markets in North and South America.”

For more information, please visit PanAmerican Geophysical at Panamgeo.com.