

Knowing Exactly Where the Data Is

"Both oil companies and seismic companies are increasingly more interested in accurate positioning," says Peder Solheim, Managing Director at Geograf. "With prospects decreasing in size, and specific reservoir targets in development drilling that are very small, it is of utmost importance to know the exact position of the drilling targets."

"The cost of reprocessing the navigation data is only a fraction of what it costs to have a rig on location," adds Jacob Loga, manager for business development.

Navigation QC and processing is the core business of Geograf, a Stavanger-based company with expertise in geodesy, hydrography, geophysics and software development. The recent increasing interest in 4D seismic is therefore "bread and butter" for the eight-year-old company.

The story behind the company started some ten years ago when Peder Solheim decided to leave Geco and try his luck as a consultant. In 1999 he was awarded a contract to map the

sea floor along the Norwegian coastline and after this the company grew rapidly and now has a staff of close to 25 experts. Giving oil companies access to experienced consultants with competence in navigation is still an important component of the business.

"The largest part of our work comprises advisory and consultancy services to the Norwegian oil industry and national mapping authorities. We are able to supply well-educated and qualified specialists to supplement our clients' resources," says Solheim. "Our in-depth knowledge and well established contacts with authorities, universities, operating companies and contractors means that we are often awarded long term contracts by both the industry and Norwegian authorities," he says.

"Improvements in navigation over the years has been tremendous," says Solheim. "In the 1980's we could barely identify the position of the source and receivers. Today it is possible to give their position with an accuracy of +/-1m, which the industry should be ready to utilise.



Photo: Halfdan Carstens

Geograf, with Peder Solheim (left), Managing Director, and Jacob Loga, Manager, Business Development, is taking advantage of the increasing number of 4D seismic surveys carried out by oil companies. Accurate navigation is a prerequisite, and this is where Geograf excel.

Geograf has a monopoly in Norway. No other company has been able to get access to the market, just because the monopolist is doing such a good job. "The next step for Geograf is therefore to go international. The

market has no limits," says Loga.

Another ambition is real-time processing. "If we are able to know the location of a shot point in advance of the shot, then we can have cables with only 25m separation." 🌟

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