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Validated Training - The Way Forward

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SUMMARY

A challenge faced by many companies is how to meaningfully develop the skills of their geoscience professionals without compromising their operational capacity. One effective solution is to offer a series of short courses, typically in a structured programme. Such a programme may well advance an employee along a favourable learning curve, but there is increasing recognition that formal accreditation for the skills learned is beneficial to both the company and the employee. The challenge for the training provider is how to ensure consistency in the award of a credit, and how to give it meaning in a global context.

Accredited training courses leading to a university qualification offer one solution, whereby employees skills progression and competencies are rewarded with an industry-recognised higher diploma or Master s degree. The net result is a team of highly trained and motivated geoscience staff, all with improved career prospects.

A good example of this type of course is the postgraduate training offered to the oil and gas sector by Fugro Robertson Ltd and Royal Holloway, University of London. This fully validated, collaborative programme has been tailored to provide flexible and accessible training and assessment, leading to a recognised postgraduate qualification. The candidates undertake a series of short classroom-based modules, delivered anywhere in the world, and are assessed by classroom coursework, on-line assessment and formal examination. The postgraduate diploma is achieved after attending 6 of the 12 validated courses and can be upgraded to a Master s degree with the completion of a dissertation.

The poster examines the benefits, versatility and success of this training model, and how it can complement existing training products.

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