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Skills Shortages, How Mutual Dependency and Entrepreneurialism Can Fill the Gap Left by the Majors

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Abstract

A case history is described of a graduate training programme for drilling engineers, showing how two independent companies, one an International Drilling Contractor, the other an experience based Drilling Engineering Consultancy, combined their unique resources to create a successful 'ground up' engineering development programme localized to Southeast Asia, and outside of major Oil Company funding.

The complexity of drilling in the current crunch for resources, means that drilling contractors and independent oil companies who may not have all the expertise in house, would want to tap diverse pools of knowledge, or may be in a stage of growth that does not justify keeping large unused capacity as overhead, need to explore collaborative business models that aim at unique value creation or risk reduction. The current collaboration displays both these features.

The paper explains how the training programme was postulated, partners were proposed, and the key drivers for each participant were explored and agreed. One partner benefited from access to practical rig based training opportunities, while the other benefited from enhanced well engineering risk assessment advice, particularly in HPHT drilling. Some examples will be shown of other tangible benefits for each partner.