



From Heightened Understanding Comes Greater Clarity



World Energy interviews Thierry Pilenko, CEO of Veritas DGC Inc.

World Energy: Recent innovation in computing technologies allow you continued improvements in processing techniques that result in enhanced image clarity. Can you explain to us what this means to you and your customers in terms of value?

Pilenko: At Veritas, we are continually developing ways to further enhance reservoir and prospect illumination. Innovation is an ongoing process, particularly in imaging. As our customers challenge us to bring clarity to increasingly complex geological structures and to meet increasing energy demand through efficient and effective exploration, we challenge companies like AMD to create the computing technologies that will support our ideas and bring them to fruition.

World Energy: Veritas is very good about listening to their customers and helping them solve real problems. How do you see computing technology contributing to your mission?

Pilenko: Listening is paramount. One of the keystones of Veritas is our ability to listen, understand and anticipate challenges and move with agility toward a solution. This means collaborating with our clientele and creatively testing many ideas, algorithms and workflow scenarios to develop concepts and rapidly bring them into production. It is an extraordinary process. And without the power, speed and integration of today's computing technology, this "project-relevant research and development" would not be possible.

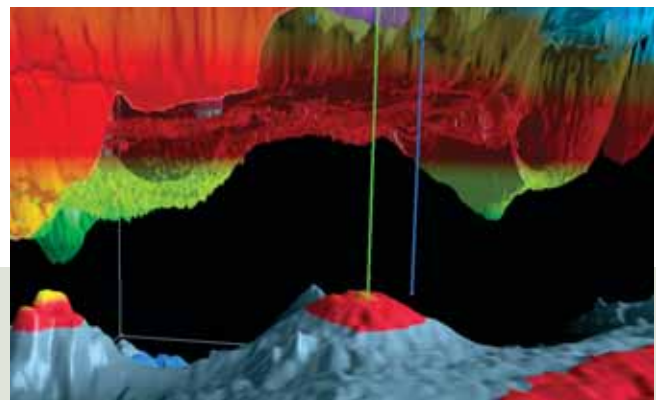
World Energy: Veritas is known for extensive research and development, making significant gains in technology and performance to improve success. What do you see on the horizon from the technology sector?

Pilenko: We expect to see a continued stream of innovative technologies and techniques driving further differentiation in the seismic business and making large strides to improve each customer's ability to find and produce oil and gas. Key areas of interest currently include specialized acquisition techniques like wide-azimuth as well as advanced processing algorithms and sequences.

We will require continued innovation from our technology providers such as AMD, especially in two areas: capacity and speed. First, data volumes are continuously increasing, and the creation of accurate images depends to a large proportion on our capacity to integrate very large areas and to analyze raw data. Storage and access are key to this process. Second, our ability to quickly run our algorithms or our interpretation models on these large-data volumes in an iterative process requires the highest possible speed. Our appetite for faster machines is insatiable.

World Energy: The idea of seismic contractors moving from "shooting seismic data" to "providing interpretive information and knowledge" is an idea that is growing in the industry. How does Veritas approach this part of the business?

Pilenko: This is a natural part of our business at Veritas. We have always been and will continue to be singularly focused on helping our customers increase their opportunity and reduce their risks by further illuminating and clarifying the subsurface. We acquire and process our own seismic data in some of the most prospective areas in the world where the multi-client data library model applies. And we progressively add value to our seismic data through increasing the amount of knowledge we impart throughout the acquisition, processing and interpretation life cycle.



Veritas DGC Inc. (Veritas), headquartered in Houston, Texas, is a leading provider of integrated geophysical information and services to the petroleum industry worldwide.



From simple attribute analysis to advanced iterative processing and interpretation, we continually look for ways to improve our customer's bottom line by providing them with "prospect ready" 3-D information.

World Energy: Can you tell us how your computing technology has contributed to your business performance and the value it has delivered?

Pilenko: Veritas' processing business is unique in the geophysical sector because of the depth of our in-house knowledge, the skills of our people and the resulting quality of our data libraries. Advanced computing technology and networks enable Veritas to add value to each customer's operations by providing the power to leverage these key differentiators and by supporting the delivery of thoughtful and swift reservoir or prospect insights anywhere in the world.

World Energy: The ability to illuminate new prospects is aided by the combination of latest-generation seismic data, integrated processing, research and development, and collaborative volume visualization as a value-add to interpretation in a seismically driven geologic workflow. Has computing technology kept pace with the creativity of your workers?

Pilenko: In some ways the answer is yes, but in other ways computing technology will never keep pace with the creativity of our employees because each advance inspires a whole new web of ideas, opportunities and goals. We have a symbiotic partnership with advanced computing. Each of our industries certainly empowers and pushes the limits of the other. It is encouraging to see that we have developed a portfolio of new ideas that will be ready to be put in production as soon as the computing power is available.

World Energy: Data acquisition has been a challenging operation, in terms of both delivering differentiated high-quality data in increasingly difficult environs and doing it profitably. How have the new specialized acquisitions techniques such as wide-azimuth challenged growth, and how has the introduction of technologies such as Opteron affected your computing strategies to manage the increased volume and resolution of the data derived from these systems?

Pilenko: Our Houston facility within our global headquarters is one of the most highly engineered cluster-computing environments in the geophysical industry today. It is powered by the 64-bit AMD Opteron™ dual-core processor. The expanded cluster system also acts as a resource for the company's worldwide grid of processing centers, enabling any Veritas center, anywhere in the world, to deliver today's most advanced seismic processing and imaging techniques efficiently and effectively including wide-azimuth, full-wave equation migration, beam imaging, 3-D SRME and interactive migration.

Here again, we see that advances in computing speed and capacity not only support the growth of processing techniques from conventional acquisition but also help develop new, data-intensive acquisition techniques such as wide-azimuth. The race for obtaining the clearest and highest-fidelity seismic image never stops.



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