

Practical Workshop: Building Excel Models of Oil and Gas Fiscal Terms

13–15 April 2010, London, UK



El member £1,600.00 (£1,880.00 inc VAT) Non-member £1,800.00 (£2,115.00 inc VAT)*

*includes complimentary Affiliate membership to the Energy Institute

A key task for oil and gas organisations working with upstream assets is to be able to understand and model the economic implications of varying fiscal terms on their projects. Proprietary software designed to analyse fiscal terms has many short-comings in this regard (e.g. black-box methodology and the need for expensive specialist software engineers to modify / update it). Most analysts need from time to time to build, and rapidly modify, their own models to facilitate detailed analysis. Excel offers the ideal platform for such work with its transparent and highly flexible functions, supplemented by excellent graphics and visual basic (VBA) macro options.

This course offers hands-on instruction for building, developing and applying spreadsheet models to analyse the economic performance of upstream fiscal terms. It is built around a series of workbook modules compatible with Excel 2007 and 2003 versions. **Delegates are required to bring their own laptop computers loaded with a functioning version of Excel 2003 or 2007 for use during the course.**

Delegates are not confronted with one large complex model that is difficult to interpret and audit. Rather they are provided daily with a number of workbooks to load, evaluate and develop through structured exercises into increasingly sophisticated models. Some basic knowledge of operating Excel software is required, but detailed expertise is not essential, as the workbooks provided are concise, user-friendly and structured to explain their objectives in easy-to-follow steps. The emphasis of the workshop is on providing insight to fiscal analysis rather than developing advanced spreadsheet skills, but both should be part of the learning outcomes.

The course is broken down into approximately **one-quarter theoretical instruction and three-quarters practical hands-on facilitated spreadsheet model development.** Brief PowerPoint presentations are delivered to review the key fiscal elements involved in a wide range of upstream fiscal designs. The presentations provide delegates with useful insight into how upstream fiscal systems are structured. They address mineral interest (tax and royalty) and production sharing systems and the common components used in those alternatives around the world, including R-factors, rates of return and a range of depreciation methods. Investment yardsticks are developed in some workbooks to analyse fiscal performance. These include the discounted cash-flow metrics of net present value, rates of return, profit / investment ratios, payback time and financial exposure measures.

The models are developed from the perspective of investing companies and the government's (i.e. total government take and partial government take, e.g. state-owned company positions). Concepts of state-take percentages of revenues and cash-flows are developed. Some models address the issues of inflation and buying-power valuation and explain in simple terms how nominal (money-of-the-day) and real values are derived and their significance.

The workbook modules introduce the delegates to some powerful graphics' techniques and illustrate how visual basic (VBA) macros can greatly enhance the speed and power of many fiscal models. These enable wide-ranging sensitivity analysis to be conducted and displayed rapidly.

Many companies make extensive use of proprietary economic modelling software, often requiring macros to be built to evaluate case-specific problems. In such cases, even though spreadsheets may not be used routinely, it is of enormous benefit for analysts and decision-makers to understand how such models can be built, developed and manipulated on a spreadsheet platform. Spreadsheets in conjunction with built-in functions, add-ins and VBA macros provide an extremely powerful platform for such analysis. The course practical sessions will demonstrate how such features can be simply and effectively harnessed to build quite sophisticated, but highly functional, analytical models.

The training materials provided to delegates for this course are all in digital formats. The course workbooks should arm the delegates with easy-to-adapt tools for building their own fiscal models.

Detailed content covered by course

Day one – Key Features of Upstream Licence Agreements

- Common Types of Upstream Fiscal Design
- Contracts versus Licences and Licence Agreement
- Division of Economic Rent
- Royalty, Production Taxes and Income Taxes
- Progressive and Regressive Fiscal Elements
- Time Value, Discounting and Depreciation
- Economic Performance Measurements and Yardsticks
- Net Present Value (NPV) and Mid-year Discounting
- Investor's Rate of Return (IRR) and Payback
- Production Sharing Agreements and Contracts (PSA or PSC)
- Cost Recovery Allocations: Cost Oil and Cost Gas
- Profit Oil and Gas
- Revenue Split Flow Diagrams to Illustrate Fiscal Design
- Splitting the Proceeds of One Production Unit

Day two – Components of Multi-year Spreadsheet Fiscal Models

- Multi-year Production Sharing Contract Cash Flow Models
- Switching Production Data Profiles for Analysis Using CHOOSE Function
- Programming and Display Styles: Named Ranges Versus Nested IFs
- Gross and Net (of cost) Tax Bases
- Royalties and Their Regressive Nature
- Minor Fiscal Terms: Bonuses and Rentals
- Establishing Economic Limits and Field Shutdown / Abandonment Logic

- Fiscal Terms Driven By Production, Reserves and Economic Yardsticks
- Sliding Scales Using Simple and Compound VLOOKUP Function
- Annotating Dynamic Graphics driven by Spinners
- Inflation, Money of the Day versus Real Terms
- Issues Associated with Fiscal and Contractual Stability

Day three – Models to Interrogate Fiscal Performance and Risk

- Sensitivity Analysis Using Multipliers Driven by Spinners
- Using Solver and Goal Seek Excel Functions for Break-even Analysis
- Detailed Sensitivity Analysis Using VBA Macro
- Risk Analysis of Project Cash Flows
- Probabilistic Analysis
- Expected Value (EV) and Expected Monetary Value (EMV)
- Farm-out Analysis Using a Decision Tree
- Tax Floors and Ceilings
- Income Taxes, Carry-forward Losses and Time Limits on Tax Allowances
- Debt Supported Cash Flows
- Developing VBA Macros for Scenario Analysis

Who should attend this course?

This course is suitable for commercial, technical and financial analysts, tax accountants, economists, bankers, planners, lawyers and others working in the upstream oil and gas industry wishing to develop fiscal analysis skills using Excel spreadsheets to evaluate oil and natural gas projects. The material is designed to illustrate perspectives of oil and gas companies, governments, state-owned oil companies and those providing financial services to the industry.

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