



Colorado School of Mines
1500 Illinois Street
Golden, CO 80401 U.S.A.
Web site: <http://www.mines.edu/Research/>

Reservoir Characterization Project (RCP)

The Reservoir Characterization Project (RCP) researches and develops new multicomponent time-lapse (4-D) seismic technology to reservoir characterization. Dynamically characterizing reservoirs by seismically monitoring the rock/fluid interaction over time is key to improved recovery.

Background:

- Created 1985
- Operates in multi-year research phases
- Phase VIII of the industry-sponsored research project began in July 1999
- Currently attracts \$1,000,000 annually in research
- Includes 25 national and international sponsors

Areas of Expertise:

- Multicomponent 4-D seismology
- Integrated flow modeling

Sponsorship Benefits:

- Cost effective, collaborative research
- Industry/university interaction and liaison

Method of Technology Transfer:

- Two sponsored meetings per year held at CSM
- Detailed research reports to sponsors
- Student theses
- Visits to sponsors by RCP personnel and vice versa
- Presentations and professional meetings
- Visiting scholar interchange
- Web site: <http://www.mines.edu/academic/geophysics/rcp>

Spin-offs / Contributions:

- Interdisciplinary research and education at a practical level
- State-of-the-art research fosters industry/university interaction
- Patents and royalty-free licenses to sponsors
- Forum to present additional issues of industry focus
- Promotes discussions and interactions among students, faculty and industry

Accomplishments:

- The Reservoir Characterization Project has completed over \$10 million of sponsored research in the past 15 years. During this time, RCP has led the industry in 3-D and 4-D, multicomponent seismic technologies and interdisciplinary reservoir characterization. RCP collected the first 3-D, 3-C seismic survey (Silo field), the first 3-D, 3-C seismic survey in Canada (Joffre field), the first land 4-D, 3-C seismic survey (Vacuum field), and currently is conducting the first 4-D, 3-C seismic survey in Canada (Weyburn field).
- Approximately 60 graduate students from Geophysics, Geology and Petroleum Engineering have completed theses based on the research of RCP. A list of theses and summary of field studies is available on our web site:
<http://www.mines.edu/academic/geophysics/rcp>

***Contact RCP Director, Dr. Tom Davis, Geophysics, (303) 273-3938; tdavis@mines.edu or
Dr. Robert Benson, Co-Director, (303) 273-3455; rbenson@mines.edu***