

A non-seismic bird-dog sniffs around

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Many petroleum sector clients are somewhat uncomfortable in commissioning non-seismic geophysical surveys. The real role of the independent consultant is then to give the client some peace of mind, and help the client distinguish between proposals that are good for the client and those that are mainly good for the contractor.

The consultant may therefore be called on to help with:

- Survey design
- Technical specifications
- Bid list compilation
- Bid adjudication
- Field QC and processing QC
- Interpretation.

QC points are:

- In the field, early in the survey, sometimes in exotic or awkward locations
- At the end of acquisition (often via internet)
- After final processing.
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Non-seismic bird-dogging is seldom done on the basis of full-time presence in the field.

QC should address several questions:

- Is the contractor's field equipment and staff capable of doing the job to spec?
- Is the contractors' in-field QC procedure adequate?
- Are the field data within spec?
- Are the final processed data within spec?
- Are the data fit for purpose?
- What is the final data quantity (line-km, stations...) as delivered? This affects invoice acceptance, so it matters.

In consequence, non-seismic bird-dogging is a demanding senior role, perhaps unlike its seismic counterpart, and is normally done on a part-time basis.