

DIGITALISING EGYPT'S NATIONAL E&P ASSETS

How is Egypt leveraging digital to accelerate energy discovery and investment from operators across the globe? Karim Badawi, managing director for Egypt and East Mediterranean at Schlumberger, explains.

IN TODAY'S DYNAMIC upstream environment, we face a more competitive landscape that demands greater efficiency in how we explore for energy. Our industry also faces new challenges emanating from a drive toward more sustainable energy production.

To address the many challenges our industry faces, we must be more agile and resilient. In Egypt, these tenets have been central to the country's energy sector's transformation and modernisation. For several years, Egypt has invested heavily in this sector, laying the country's groundwork to become a strategic energy hub for the region. Much progress has been made since the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources first laid out its modernisation programme's goals, including increasing its workforce-skills through local training programmes and investing in key infrastructure projects, particularly in the midstream sector.

Now, as Egypt's programme matures, modernisation efforts continue to focus on unlocking the sector's full value chain potential as a growth and sustainable development engine. While there are many factors at play for Egypt to achieve this objective, a key enabler is digitalisation.

A prime example of this is the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources' work with Schlumberger on a national project for the digitalisation of the country's E&P assets. The recently launched Egyptian Upstream Gateway (EUG) is an industry-first platform that digitally showcases these assets to investors worldwide and leverages the latest digital technology and solutions to accelerate discovery throughout the country.

The launch of the EUG provides the Egyptian government with the freedom to manage its natural resources, promote



Karim Badawi is managing director for Egypt and East Mediterranean at Schlumberger.

investment in exploration and production, streamline interactions across its energy sector, and manage investor compliance for reserves development in a single platform.

The platform achieves two key objectives for the country: It enables anytime, anywhere access to mission-critical subsurface and production data, eliminating the inefficiencies of the traditional National Data Repository (NDR) model, and it provides a robust, connected platform for promoting licensing rounds and connecting stakeholders with potential business opportunities.

Previously, Egypt leveraged physical

locations to store vast amounts of subsurface information. This dated NDR model limited ease of access to international investors and the country's ability to ensure data integrity in the long term and enhance data security. This NDR model is not exclusive to Egypt, and in fact, causes significant challenges for other energy-rich countries across the globe.

The EUG provides secure, remote digital access to data via an online portal, eliminating the need to travel to a physical location. The data is displayed to users in the context of a regional map, so it is easy to find, and as new data is added or existing data is enhanced with new processing technologies, it is instantly updated to all the platform's users. These updates ensure the data is kept evergreen, meaning everyone always has access to the same data.

With abundant subsurface information now easily accessible via the EUG, the country is realising key opportunities to promote its assets to a much wider audience. For example, the EUG is currently hosting Egypt's first digitally-enabled bid round, providing national and international investors with an array of information on the available lease blocks and the capability to participate in the bid round online. The current round, which ends on August 1, includes nine blocks in the Mediterranean Sea, 12 in the Western Desert, and three in the Gulf of Suez.

Existing asset holders now have faster access to data and reduced cycle-time through data ever greening. The platform also offers opportunities for portfolio expansion through trading.

As Egypt continues to evolve and modernise, this robust platform will evolve with it, creating more opportunities for Egypt to promote investment in the country from across the globe. ♦