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Newsletter

Pipeline Open Data Standard

www.pods.org

May 2007

PODS™ is the pipeline industry database standard. The PODS Association Board of Directors is composed of pipeline industry leaders who volunteer their time to direct the activities and priorities of the Association. The PODS data model is developed by the Technical Committee which is also composed of industry leaders who volunteer their time.

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Welcome New Members

ExxonMobil
Geonamics, Inc.
GIE SA
Guardian ProStar

[Complete list of members](#)

Call for Papers & Sponsors: PODS User Group Meeting

The Third Annual PODS User Group Meeting will be held September 27, 2007, immediately following GITA's GIS for Oil & Gas Conference. Please note that GITA has changed the date and location of the event. PODS will also host our second annual PODS Social on Wednesday evening, September 26, 2007.

The PODS User Group Meeting is open to both members and non-members. We welcome your participation in the PODS User Group Meeting.

Call for Papers:

Abstracts are due by noon (CST), June 11, 2007. Complete instructions for submitting a presentation can be found on the PODS User Group Meeting [Call for Papers website](#). Abstract submittal is now open to any member with a non-commercial presentation.

Call for Sponsors:

Thank you for considering sponsoring our User Group Meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to focus on the business needs of oil and gas pipeline operators relating particularly to the PODS data model and industry standards. Sponsorships are available from \$5,000 to \$500, plus miscellaneous sponsorships. More information about sponsorship can be found on the PODS User Group Meeting [Sponsorship website](#).

More Information:

Please contact [Sheila Wilson](#) by email or phone (918-246-9343) for more information about submitting an abstract and/or sponsorships.

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PODS 4.0.1 Release

PODS 4.0.1 has been released to members for comment. Once the comments have been addressed, PODS 4.0.1 will be available as a final release.

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PODS: Next Release

The PODS next release is being evaluated by the Board of Directors and the Technical Committee. Updates will be available as information is provided.

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PODS Spatial Committee Update

The PODS Spatial Committee is working with the Oracle Spatial Subcommittee and the ESRI-APDM Subcommittee to determine release dates for the spatial implementations. Below are updates on both subcommittees.

Oracle Spatial Subcommittee

The Oracle Spatial Subcommittee has presented a paper to the Technical Committee for review. The Technical Committee is requesting further information and documentation. Once the information needs of both committees have been met, integration and modification of the appropriate tables will begin.

ESRI-APDM Subcommittee

The ESRI-APDM Subcommittee has been meeting in person once per quarter with regular teleconferences at other times. ESRI, APDM, and PODS are working together to develop the PODS ESRI Geodatabase. A more formal update is expected in June.

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One Call Working Group Update

The One Call Working Group held their first meeting on May 17, 2007. They are completing the charter and developing a balance between operators, service providers, and one call organizations.

The objective of the working group is to address and identify the One Call/Damage Prevention data requirements that are relevant to the overall PODS working data model. If you are interested, please contact [Sheila Wilson](#) at PODS.

We have gathered many names are continuing to build this working group. Thank you to everyone participating.

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Working Groups

If you are interested in joining any of the following working groups, please contact [Sheila Wilson](#).

- One Call
- New Construction Data Exchange Standards
- Domain Ranges
- US DOT PHMSA
- Russian Regulatory Requirements

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PODS in Production

This section highlights operators who have PODS in production. If you would like to share information, please contact the [PODS Association](#).

The questions are:

- How many miles do your customers have in the PODS data model?
- What was the business driver behind your decision to use the PODS data model?
- What was the business driver behind your customer's decision to use the PODS data model?
- Are you happy with the decision? (Please answer yes.) Why?
- What has been the greatest benefit of the PODS model?
- Why would you recommend other companies use the PODS model?

The first company to share information is Michael Ray, Systems Analyst Staff Sr. with Boardwalk Pipelines. Michael is also one of the newer members on the Technical Committee. He shares the following:

- *Total miles of pipe in PODS: approximately 6,000.*
- *The main driver to move to PODS was simply implementing 3rd party software. Also, maintaining our proprietary model was becoming increasingly inefficient and costly.*
- *Our users have been happy with the decision to move to PODS. Implementing new software or extending the model for new data requirements is much easier now. We can implement new modules or extensions to the model in a very short period of time.*
- *The greatest benefit of moving to PODS - too many*

benefits to list. The greatest benefit is the ease in which we can plug in new software or extend the model to meet the needs of the business.

- *I would highly recommend companies move to the PODS model. The model is continually getting better. The committees are quick to respond to industry needs or changes. Companies can leverage the experiences of other pipelines.*

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Converting from PODS 3.2 to PODS 4.0 in Oracle: One Operator's Suggestions

One operator has made the following suggestions for converting from PODS 3.2 to PODS 4.0 in Oracle:

- Consider using update scripts to alter your PODS 3.2 tables rather than porting your data from PODS 4.0.
- Comparing the PODS 3.2 schema to PODS 4.0 may help with the conversion process. PL/SQL developer has a compare schema tool built in.
- The skill level required for the conversion is high.

The PODS Association shares this information for the convenience of its members. The information is not part of the standard and is unique to only one operator. It is not expected to apply to any other operators.

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Technical Committee Tip

Where are regulators stored in PODS?

There is no table to explicitly store regulators

What does specification mean in the Valve table?

This is a manufacturer specification published by a standards organization (i.e. ANSI – American National Standards Institute, ASTM – American Society for Testing and Materials, etc.). It relates directly to the range of operating pressures for which the valve is rated. Please see below for sample domain codes:

ANSI 150

ANSI 300

ANSI 400

ANSI 600

ANSI 900

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The Funnies

Mitch Hedberg:

I wanna hang a map of the world in my house.
Then I'm gonna put pins into all the locations
that I've traveled to. But first, I'm gonna have to
travel to the top two corners of the map so it
won't fall down.

From [The Quotations Page](#)

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PODS Association Activity Calendar	
6/11/2007	Abstracts Due: Call for Papers - PODS User Group Meeting (September 27, 2007)
	The PODS Association is accepting abstracts through noon CST today for the 3rd Annual PODS User Group Meeting, September 27, 2007, following the GIS for Oil & Gas Conference.
6/20/2007	2007 ESRI User Conference: Room 28 B, 5:30-6:30 pm
	The PODS association's Executive Director is hosting a one hour PODS user reception at the 2007 ESRI User Conference. The reception is open to non-members and members. Selected members of the Technical Committee, and the Board of Directors will also be in attendance.
7/9/2007	Abstract Acceptance Notification: Call for Papers - PODS User Group Meeting (September 27, 2007)
	Notification will be sent to accepted speakers
7/16/2007	Abstract Declined Notification: Call for Papers - PODS User Group Meeting (September 27, 2007)
	Notification will be sent to declined speakers
8/6/2007	Presentation Slides Due: Call for Papers - PODS User Group Meeting (September 27, 2007)
	Slides are due for all presentations for the 3rd Annual PODS User Group Meeting
9/24/2007	2007 GIS for Oil & Gas Conference
	GITA's annual GIS for Oil & Gas Conference begins today and will continue through September 26. PODS will have a booth at the show with a user group meeting afterwards. Please note the time and date change.
9/26/2007	Second Annual PODS Social
	Please join us for the 2nd Annual PODS Social at 6pm, Wednesday, after the GITA Conference ends.
9/27/2007	Third Annual PODS User Group Meeting
	The 3rd Annual PODS User Group Meeting begins today. You can find details on the PODS website (www.pods.org).

Meet a Member of the Board of Directors



Scott Hills is a Sr. Staff Scientist in the Information Management unit of Chevron Energy Technology Company. He joined the PODS Association Technical Committee in 2003, was Chairman of that committee 2004-2006, and is now on the PODS Board of Directors. He has also been a member of the ESRI Petroleum User Group Steering Committee since 2002.

Scott has lead an enterprise GIS implementation for Chevron Nigeria Ltd, one of Chevron's largest upstream business units; contributed to enterprise GIS implementations in two other international upstream business units, and in Chevron Pipeline Company; led an effort last year to develop a strategic vision and implementation plan for GIS within Chevron; and is currently coordinating efforts to develop the global standards needed to support that implementation.

In 1995, he began experimenting with the original pipeline data model which eventually became PODS, prototyped its application to upstream pipeline operations while on resident assignment in Nigeria, and after returning to the U.S., supported its implementation in Chevron Pipeline Company.

Scott holds a Ph.D. in Oceanography from U.C., San Diego/Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

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PODS Executive Director:

Sheila Wilson

PODS Board of Directors:

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Terrie Spicer, *Kinder Morgan*

Keith Leewis, *P-PIC*

PODS Technical Committee:

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Gary Hoover, *Enterprise Operating Products L.P.*
Costas Kotzabassis, *BITS*

Committee Members:

Dave Cullom, *Washington State Utilities*
Jay Williams, *ConocoPhillips*
John Chioles, *Chevron*
Kirk Cameron, *New Century Software*
Michael Ray, *Texas Gas Transmission*
Rod Burden, *Moore Resources*
Rodger Weller, *GE*
Teresa Young, *GeoFields*

PODS Committees & Working Groups:

Spatial Implementation Committee
Inline Inspection Integrity Data Interchange
ECDA Integrity Data Interchange
PODS Fine Grain Security
One Call – in development
New Construction Data Exchange Standards – in development
Russian Regulatory Requirements – in development
Domain Ranges – in development
US DOT PHMSA – in development

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