

For Immediate Release



AUB receives \$1.7-million state-of-the art software in support of oil and gas research

Beirut, Lebanon- 28/03/2012 - The American University of Beirut has received a \$1.7-million reservoir simulation software, which allows engineers to model oil and gas fields and reservoirs on their computers in order to predict the flow of oil or gas through layers of porous rock. This in turn helps researchers identify the locations with the highest oil and gas availability, in addition to figuring out the best way to recover them.

The state-of-the-art applications, known by their trademarks of ECLIPSE and Petrel, were donated by Schlumberger Information Solutions (SIS), an operating unit of Schlumberger, the owner of the software and the world's largest oilfield services company.

The availability of this software to AUB researchers and students will further develop hands-on experience at the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture and support skills development of future oil and gas professionals in Lebanon.

Access to ECLIPSE and Petrel will substantially enhance the quality of available resources and would allow researchers to produce cutting-edge research. These software applications have been the benchmark for reservoir simulation for more than 25 years because of their breadth of capabilities, robustness, and speed.

The donation was originally created in support of a multi-disciplinary research project led by professors George Saad from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Fouad Azizi from the Chemical Engineering Program at AUB.

The research project, conducted by professors Saad and Azizi, is entitled “Stochastic Optimization of the Water Flooding Process through Front Tracking” and is partially supported by a grant from the Munib and Angela Masri Institute of Energy and Natural Resources at AUB. This project aims at proposing new techniques to substantially enhance oil production from oilfields. This would be achieved by injecting water into the reservoir in order to sweep large volumes of oil trapped in geological constrictions. The trapped oil would have been impossible to recover using traditional techniques.

Saad and Azizi’s research project aims at identifying the optimal location for injecting water into the reservoirs as well as the best site for drilling oil production wells. While the results of the study can be applied to any oilfield in the world, these would also be of great benefit if applied to the oil reserves of Lebanon.

To facilitate the usage of the donated software by the AUB community, Professor Makram Suidan, dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, has supplied faculty labs with five high performance computers.

“We thank Schlumberger for their donation and for their role in enriching engineering graduates’ skills and for contributing to increasing their competitiveness on a global scale and permitting them to work on challenging and relevant problems to the region,” said Dean Suidan.

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Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 600 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,000 students. AUB currently offers more than 100 programs leading to the bachelor’s, master’s, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full service 420-bed hospital.

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