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Introduction to our Compliance Specialists: Peter Kennedy, Sword's Information Management Services Lead, has over 25 years of industry experience delivering high value information and compliance management services across the full spectrum of energy sector information and data. Peter also performs the role of Information and Records Management Lead for one the UK's leading independent operating companies where he guides strategy and drives operational effectiveness.

Ed Ainsworth, Sword's Compliance Services Lead, although having a background in zoology now has nearly 20 years' experience ensuring that North Sea operators records are managed in alignment to internal and regulatory standards. Ed also performs the role of ISC for an international NoC, instrumental in ensuring they maintain the highest compliance standards.



Peter Kennedy



Ed Ainsworth

## The Role of Regulatory Compliance in the E&P Data Lifecycle

### The UK Regulatory Landscape

Compliance has historically been an afterthought, sitting out with the core data management lifecycle, side-lined in favour of operational activity and prioritising demand on resource-constrained teams. Internal pressures often left the data and information lifecycle hanging, with the impetus and energy to close out dwindling, likely driven by a lack of realisation of the value that compliance can derive when done effectively.

Times have changed, the data and information landscape has shifted with the realisation of the value that effectively governed data sets can yield, focusing organisations to target data in the search for operational effectiveness, innovation, competitive advantage, and value realisation.

The UK Government, through the North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA), has a directive to maximise the value of UK energy assets and deliver sustainability and security within the UK energy ecosystem. To support this push, it must ensure that the UK's digital energy assets are optimised and accessible to support hydrocarbon, alternative energy and decarbonising initiatives, inevitably the desire to achieve its goals is being felt by Operators and their compliance teams.

### The Regulatory Impact upon the E&P data lifecycle

Recent changes in regulatory requirements have driven the implementation of more structured and standardised workflows throughout the E&P data lifecycle, driving the innovative adaptation of existing processes for data collection, management, analysis, and reporting to reduce time to insight.

The development and widespread adoption of technology advances, specifically data mining, content analytics, cognitive search, GeoSpatial Analytics and data visualisation within better integrated information architectures have no doubt accelerated and streamlined compliance workflows.

Compliance specialists need to keep pace with evolving regulations and industry best practices, continually building on core data competencies, increasingly needing to combine digital skills (either their own or supporting teams), data engineering and low-code techniques to leverage the full technology capability on offer in the marketplace.

Regulatory compliance has further highlighted the value in our trusted digital data assets. Our data professionals must keep pace with change and adapt their reporting behaviours to suit an evolving audience.

### The role of the ISC

It is imperative that organisations acknowledge compliance as a long-term investment which delivers cumulative value.

Encouraging positive behaviours, developing, and supporting robust processes and a governance-minded culture throughout a business drives the ongoing cost of compliance down.

The role of an Information and Samples Coordinator not only involves managing the flow of information and physical samples, ensuring accuracy and quality, coordinating communication, and continuously improving processes related to information and sample management but also to drive the behavioural adoption and change required to integrate compliance best practice into an organisation's Business-as-usual.

Sword provides experienced compliance and information managers to perform the ISC role for our clients, equally importantly we provide the support that ISC's require to ensure the demands of the role are met, especially during periods of peak activity, such as the infrastructure submissions and looming UK NSTA calls for data.

### Compliance Driven-Value

Transparency, clarity and domain understanding are essential to determining a company's regulatory stance and their compliance deficit. Navigating the enormity of an organisations digital and physical assets to "plug" the deficit can be a daunting prospect. Known for providing the expertise and knowledge required to shape and deliver compliance services, Sword specialises in delivering achievable and sustainable technical solutions to support all aspects of managing compliance and the broader data and information domain.

Whether leveraging data science and machine learning to automate data mining, classification, and data extraction of unstructured data, or delivering GeoSpatial environments to transform the way you present and connect your data with external information sources to support an integrated digital infrastructure, data compliance enables you to fully realise the value of your data.

The compliance landscape is no longer static, it is continually evolving, accelerating towards supporting sustainable integrated energy systems, which will require an equally integrated, aligned and compliant data ecosystem. Recognising the demand and anticipating the change are essential to ensuring we maintain the trust and realise the value in our digital data assets. ▽

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**About Sword:** As the North Sea's largest provider of data and digital services, Sword focuses on solving the industry's most critical business technology challenges by enabling our clients to capture, manage and utilise data to make informed decisions. This is supported by technology adoption and people engagement, together with modern ways of working to give confidence that the right decision is made every time.

