

Alumni Speaker Series 2013

Thursday 25 April 2013, Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology, New Museums site, Lecture Theatre 1, 4 pm

“Technology Management in a large integrated Oil Company”



Dr David Söderberg,

BP Group Technology, Director Technology Management

Background and Synopsis:

BP is committed to driving technological excellence, and as a company we believe that technology is central to BP's reputation and competitive advantage in the short, medium and long term. We lead the field in a series of specialist energy technologies - these include seismic imaging, and enhanced oil recovery, in the upstream and more fuel efficiency in the downstream. To maintain this leading edge we invest over £130m annually on research and development through UK based institutions, or around 35% of our total R&D spend. As well as our own research centres, we also invest in programmes with UK universities and government initiatives.

For example the BP Institute was established as an interdisciplinary research institute at Cambridge University over a decade ago. The BPI's research has touched on everything from oil recovery to areas such as geological storage of carbon dioxide, building ventilation and ocean currents. Our long history of developing technology for deployment across the world is a fundamental part of who we are and gives us a strong platform to help meet future energy demand.

With this large investment in developing and deploying technology it is important that we use a set of planning, project, and portfolio management processes to ensure that portfolio management decisions, prioritisation and execution are carried out in a consistent, meaningful, and equitable way to maximise business value and manage risk - This, in essence, is the process of Technology Management.

Biographical details:

David is currently Director Technology Management in BP Group Technology where he is responsible for the development and implementation of Technology Management Standards across the BP Group. He has twenty two years of experience in BP and BP heritage companies, and has worked in technology, operations and project/portfolio management in Refining, Chemicals, Upstream, and Alternative Energy. Prior to his most recent assignments David worked as Global Integrity Manager for Innovene. He also brings eight years of experience as a Technology Manager for various groups within DuPont and ICI. David holds a 1st Class Hons. BSc in Chemical Engineering from UMIST and a PhD from Cambridge - his thesis topic was “Hydrodynamic Instabilities in Two-phase Flow” under the supervision of Professor John Davidson. He is a Fellow of the British Institution of Chemical Engineers, a Chartered Engineer, and a former Chairman of the Chicago Section of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.