

# Côte d'Ivoire Spotlight

**The advanced technology, digital and Earth data company, Viridien, formerly CGG, is passionate about the development of long-term relationships and their positive impact on mutual success across the global energy sector.**

One such relationship is the one forged between Viridien and Côte d'Ivoire's General Directorate of Hydrocarbons (DGH) and NOC, PETROCI Holding (PETROCI) since 1999.

Following this year's Africa Energies Summit, we caught up with Emmanuel Nformi, Viridien's Business Development Manager, Sub-Saharan Africa, Earth Data and Samuel Essoh, Geoscience Director, PETROCI to find out more about the relationship and the benefits gained in attending the Summit in London.

## **What value does multi-client seismic data bring to the region and a country like Côte d'Ivoire?**

**SE:** It gets to the forefront of exploration, providing the foundation for revealing prospectivity: missed opportunities and not-yet-known ones. This is applicable mainly to open acreage. It also expands the horizons of prospectivity – in other words, open unlicensed blocks with no data coverage. Ultimately, multi-client seismic data provides confidence to explorers and governments in de-risking prospects.

## **How active has Viridien been in Côte d'Ivoire and the wider region in supporting this?**

**EN:** Viridien has an extensive history and active participation in the country, including some notable achievements and, critically, has

developed exceptional relationships to support the government and PETROCI.

Not only has Viridien had a long-standing presence in Africa since the 1930s, it's been active in CDI for over 25 years. We highly value the robust partnerships we have made with the government, in which we collectively develop the country's resources.

## **How important is it for a key industry player like PETROCI to work with reliable partners like Viridien with such long experience in the country?**

**SE:** Viridien is known as a pioneer in seismic technology, and the data it supplies has proven indispensable for understanding our country's resources.

**EN:** From Viridien's perspective, our long-term investment in the region has given us an in-depth understanding of the country and wider region, whether that is focused on subsurface, above-ground or government relations, and we have helped the advance of geoscience knowledge and expertise in Côte d'Ivoire.

That extensive knowledge, combined with our cutting-edge geoscience technology, has led to an impressive collection of multi-client data, which is a testament to our commitment to providing the best service and geological insight possible.

However, it's about more than just data. We believe in the significance of strong partnerships. Viridien is a proven, dependable business ally, with an excellent ESG track record, that can help promote the licensing of acreage and boost national reserves. These partnerships create mutually beneficial outcomes, as our expertise and technology can help governments/IOCs unlock new opportunities.



### Names Left to Right

- Samuel Essoh, Director of Exploration, PETROCI Holding
- Erling Frantzen, SVP EAMEK - Earth Data, Viridien
- Joachim Beugre, Chairman, PETROCI Holding
- Fatoumata Sanogo, Director General, PETROCI Holding
- Sophie Zurquiyah, CEO, Viridien
- Alpha Yaya Ouattara, Director of Exploration and Production of Hydrocarbons, DGH
- Simon Cheesley, Director of Sub-Saharan Africa - Earth Data, Viridien

## What services and expertise are you offering E&P players in CDI and the wider region?

**EN:** In a nutshell, we specialise in providing best-in-class seismic imaging, reimagining, multi-client acquisition, and other geological and geophysical services and solutions.

To do so, we apply our latest and greatest advanced technology, including highly customized industry leading High-Performance Computing, to reduce the overall exploration cycle time, minimise energy resource exploration risks and ensure the highest-quality data.

The CDI Program is the result of 25 years of tireless work to provide unparalleled insights into the subsurface. And we are equally tireless in our commitment to using the latest techniques, such as our Full-Waveform Inversion (FWI) technology. Our proprietary technology - Time-Lag Full-Waveform Inversion (TLFWI) - is known to produce dramatic improvements in seismic imaging. It has been highly successful in velocity model building for complex geological settings worldwide, including carbonates – not least within CDI’s Baleine field.

## What did you think PETROCI/DGH would gain and have gained by attending the Africa Energies Summit for the first time this year?

**SE:** We were looking to achieve targeted engagement and promotion of Cote d’Ivoire’s hydrocarbon potential at the decision-making level to current and potential investors, alongside partners like Viridien. I’m delighted to say that PETROCI and DGH made many such engagements at the AES 2024.

## How does the Africa Energies Summit promote Viridien/PETROCI to the world?

**EN:** It’s no secret that the global E&P industry relies heavily upon robust partnerships and high-quality networking opportunities. The Africa Energies Summit is fully aligned to those requirements, providing a unique platform for African governments and their partners to meet key global decision-making stakeholders, promote the opportunities on the continent and ultimately bring them to Africa.

By utilising best-in-class technology and expertise to accurately image previously unexplored areas with prospectivity and uncover missed opportunities, Viridien values its networks with government and industry and, at the Africa Energies Summit, showcasing our technologies and data can provide the foundation upon which governments and investors can build.

