

# Saudi Aramco: A major oil conglomerate



أرامكو السعودية  
Saudi Aramco

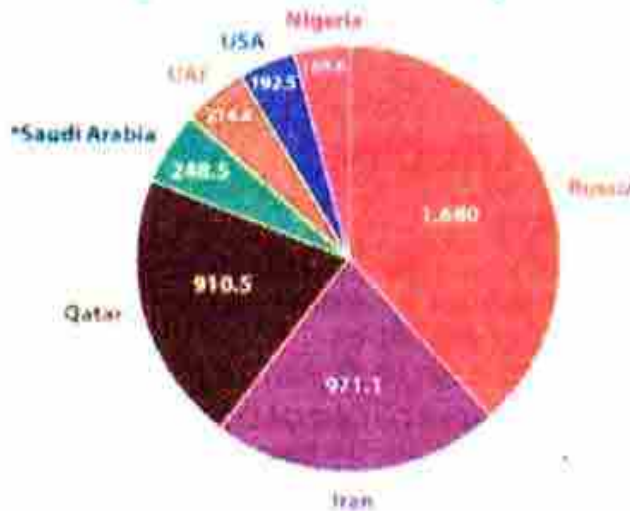
**M**aking petroleum and its products available to the world begins with exploration and development. Exploration focuses on finding oil and gas fields hidden deep underground. Oil is formed in sedimentary rocks and migrates through a sedimentary basin's fluid system. Some is eventually trapped in a variety of geologic environments. It is up to oil exploration teams to locate these traps. These teams are primarily comprised of geologists and geophysicists.

Geologists study rocks, minerals and fossils to determine where oil and gas accumulations are likely to be found. They also understand global plate tectonics and how the basins of the world have evolved over time. Geophysicists study the physics of the earth. They often use seismology, the study of sound within the earth, and seismic surveying, the study of manmade sounds within the earth.

Saudi Aramco explorationists primarily look for traps found by geophysicists in areas where geologists have determined that oil is likely to be found.

Saudi Aramco succeeds

## Natural Gas Reserves as of Jan. 1, 2007 (in trillion cubic feet)



Source: Oil and Gas Journal / \*Saudi Aramco actual

by taking a systematic approach to exploration. All exploration studies done by

its scientists are kept in libraries, even studies that had negative results. Exploratory wells that were unsuccessful in finding oil or gas, called dry holes, provide valuable information about conditions

in the sedimentary rocks thousands of feet down. Oil is generally found in a new basin after a long search, which may take many years, so a systematic approach to exploration and good record keeping are extremely important. The science of oil exploration matured over the last century and is now very sophisticated. Exploration and development require computer specialists to operate the powerful computers necessary for processing, analyzing and mapping the vast stores of data collected.

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