

Chevron Partnership

“We are pleased to support the work of outstanding research facilities like Los Alamos National Laboratory. Energy is a collaborative venture, and some of the best solutions are built through partnerships.”

Manny Gonzales, Alliance Manager at Chevron Energy Technology Co.

A commitment to partnership is a central value and major source of strength for Chevron. Their collaboration with Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) enables technologies first developed for national security to be advanced and applied in unique ways to the oil field.

The newly commercialized Inficomm™ communication system shows how this collaboration process can work. Inficomm technology began as a LANL project for use in military communications. To develop it for downhole use, Chevron turned to its Area 52 research facility. Area 52 is comprised primarily of recent retirees from LANL and provides Chevron with a prototyping facility that can rapidly transfer LANL technologies into the market.

Inficomm technology reliably transmits real-time pressure and temperature data from depths as great as 25,000 ft (7,620m). It is paired with a companion technology, TruDepth™, that identifies oil and water levels in the pumping well. Unlike current systems, neither technology requires batteries or wires running from the surface to the bottom of the wellbore. This results in decreased costs and increased reliability relative to the sensors currently used.

The Inficomm system promises to be an important technology for production and reservoir management and is currently in the commercialization and manufacturing phase.

