A New Approach to Fiber Optic Deployment

P.Higginson, M.Webster, D.Purkis



Contents

- Fiber optics in a downhole environment
- The downhole fiber optic deployment challenge
- A new approach for a new oil price environment
 - Defining the problem & design approach
 - Leveraging existing technology & services
 - The Dart Concept
 - Rapid Prototyping
 - Unconventional testing methods
 - Results
- Conclusions

Distributed Fiber Optic (DFO) Capabilities

Advantages

Passive

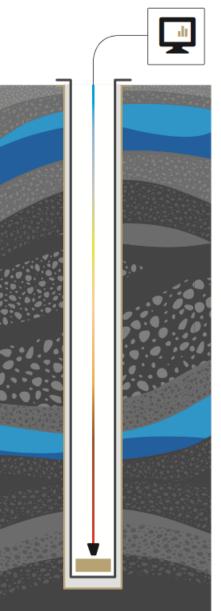
Distributed

Temperature

Acoustics

Well Integrity Micro-Seismic Vertical Seismic Profile Cement Cure Production Profiling Gas Lift Optimisation

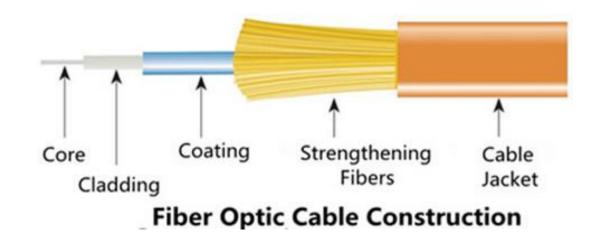
Applications



The Deployment Challenge

- Existing Methods
 - Permanent Install
 - Fiber in Coil Tubing
 - Carbon Rod
 - Fiber Optic Slickline
 - Dart
- Cost, risk & logistics challenges
- Significant hardware and personnel requirements

Result - low levels of implementation & understanding of DFO



Simplified Approach

Problem - 'Cost effective deployment of FO into oil & gas wells'

Solution - 'A system that simply gets a fiber into the well'

Characteristics - Small, light & portable → Disposable

Ease the process by:

- Leverage existing technologies and services
- Look inside and outside of our industry

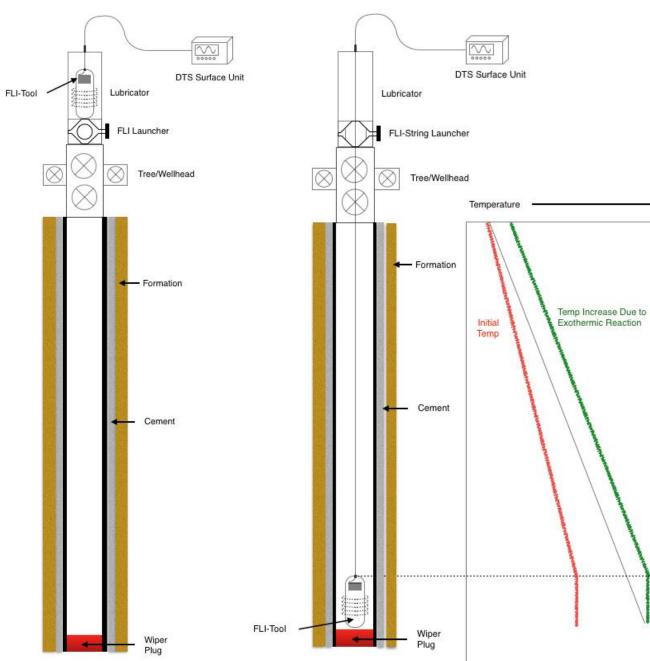
The Dart Concept

- What is bare fiber optic line?
 - 0.250mm diameter
 - Glass core (0.10-0.065mm dia)
 - Protective Coating
 - Human Hair is 0.100mm dia
- Will bare Fiber work?
 - Yes but duration unknown
- How do we get it into a well?
 - Wind it up and drop it in?

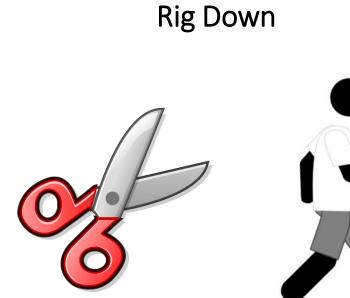




Rig-Up



Monitor



Depth

Initial Prototype

- Purchased lowest grade fiber
- 3D Printed equipment to wind fiber
- Plastics and aluminum to manufacture tools
- Successful drop testing low height
- Unsuccessful drop testing test well (1,600ft)
- Some data capture from DAS



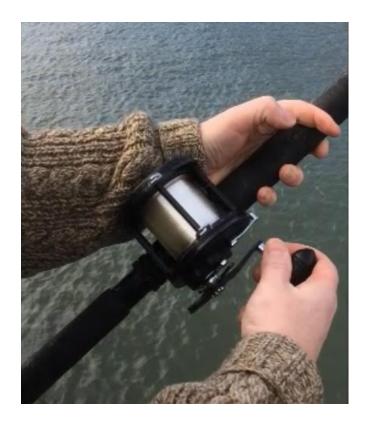
3 Months

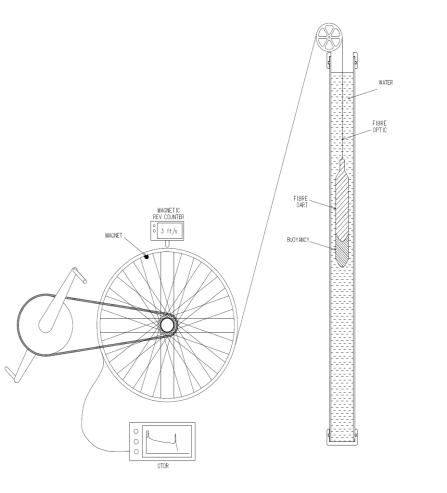
Modified Prototype

- Re-think winding designs
- Simulator for de-spooling longer lengths
- Re-design winding equipment
- Successful drop testing low height
- Successful de-spooling testing 3,000ft+
- Successful drop testing test well (1,600ft)
- Multiple drops showed repeatability
- Good response & data capture from DAS
- Good depth correlation

3 Months

Unconventional Testing Methods





Initial Commercial Product



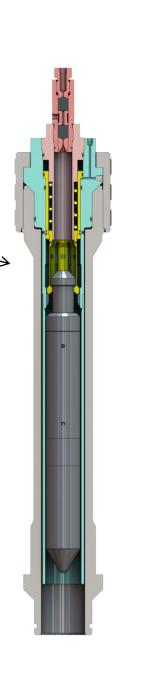
- Engage L48 Operators for trial wells
- Identify low risk candidate & clear objectives
- Design, manufacture and test system
- Mobilise equipment to USA (Eagleford)
- Stack-up Integration Testing
- Successful deployment (main objective)
- Monitored DTS over 53hrs
- Monitored fiber over total of 6 days

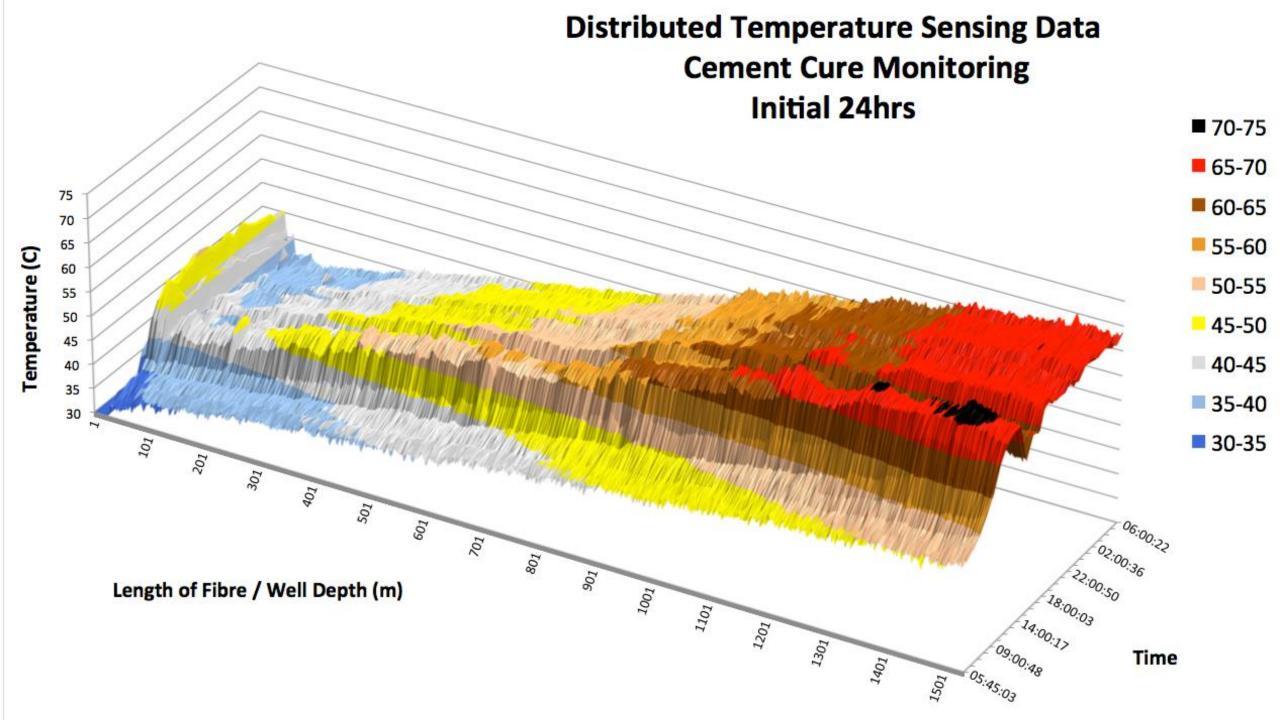




Dimensions

- Complete Launch Package
 - 5ft long
 - 20 kgs (not including Lubricator)
- Dart
 - 2.750" OD
 - 3ft Long
 - 4kgs (including 2kg of Concrete)





Conclusions

- Bare fiber optic can be reliably deployed into a well
- DTS and DAS Measurements can be taken
- Results are accurate and are well correlated to depth
- Can be packaged into a compact plug and play system
- The limits of the technology have yet to be reached
- Disposable system simplifies the overall system design
- Cost effective solutions can be implemented more widely
- Increased DFO can provide a better understanding of wells
- Enabling more frequent and efficient well intervention

What's Next?

- Build on the technology as a platform for well intervention
 - Passive (Distributed Sensing)
 - Active (Passive plus sensors)
 - Mechanical
- Installation into a horizontal well
 - For the purposes of offset micro-seismic
- Integration of passive and active optical sensors
 - Pressure / Temperature Gauge
 - Camera
 - INS

Thank You

Questions