

Reducing Well Control Incidents A Case for Automation

Mark Gillard
Technical Manager



Agenda

- Introduction
- Data Analysis
- Why Automation?
- Automated Well Control
 - Human Factors
 - Reducing Influx Size
 - Cost Benefits
- Automated Well Control System
- Q&A

Meet Our Team

Bryan Atchison



Managing Director

Senior executive with long-standing career in Operators. Extensive experience in drilling, well engineering and offshore operations.

Eric Wesselingh



Engineering Manager

Experienced senior manager with 30 years' experience in the oil and gas industry and strong background from Drilling Contractors.

Mark Gillard



Technical Manager

Experienced professional with over 40 years of well engineering experience working for Operators, Training Centre and Regulator.

Juliana Bond



**Corporate
Communications Manager**

Very skilled journalist with over 15 years of experience in Media, Communications and Marketing.

Timeline



Safe Influx
Founded in
October



Finalist for the SPE Offshore
Achievements Awards and
Global Energy Awards



Conferences

Global Partnership with
Weatherford MPD



2018

2020

2021

2021

Minimum Viable Product available

Lloyd's Register Technology
Qualification achieved

IP Agreement signed off by RGU

OGTC funding awarded

Conferences

Successful **FIELD TRIAL**
and Technology Qualification
extended to traditional land rigs



UK Patent granted

Successful **Safe Influx** and
Weatherford MPD RIG TRIAL



SPE Technical Papers

Conferences

Finalist for the World Oil Awards



Why Automated Well Control?



Drillers' loss of Level 1 Situational Awareness (loss of attention) causes **up to 67% of blowouts**

Loss of Well Control frequency is **6.04 wells/1000** for exploration wells in US GoM



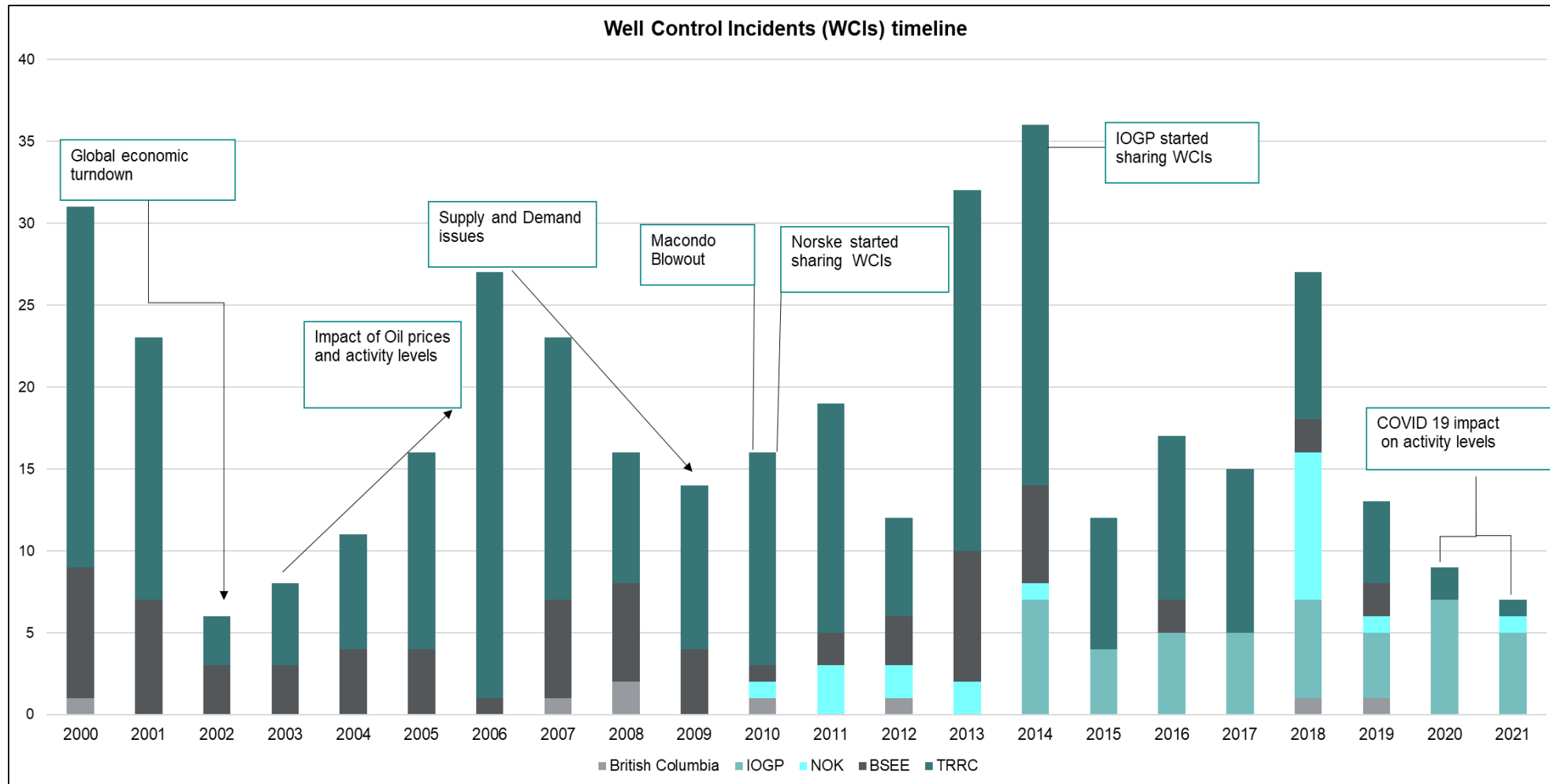
71% of Well Control Incidents caused by Human Factors

Loss of Well Control frequency is **1.50 wells/1000** for exploration wells in a North Sea Standard operation

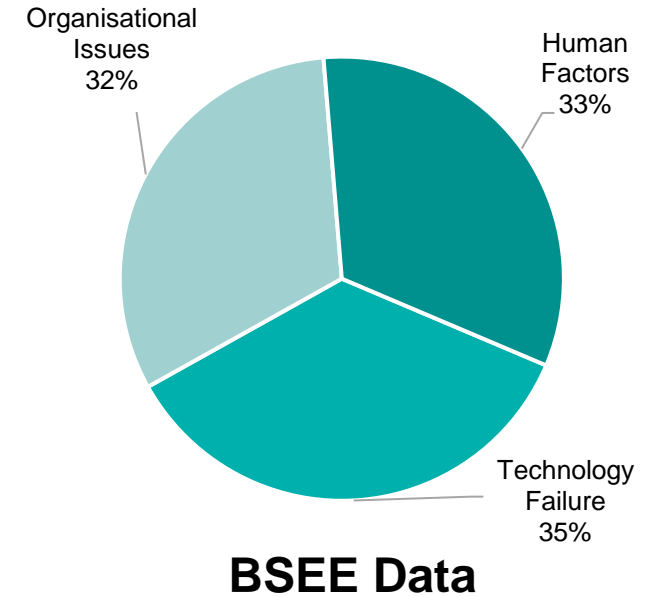
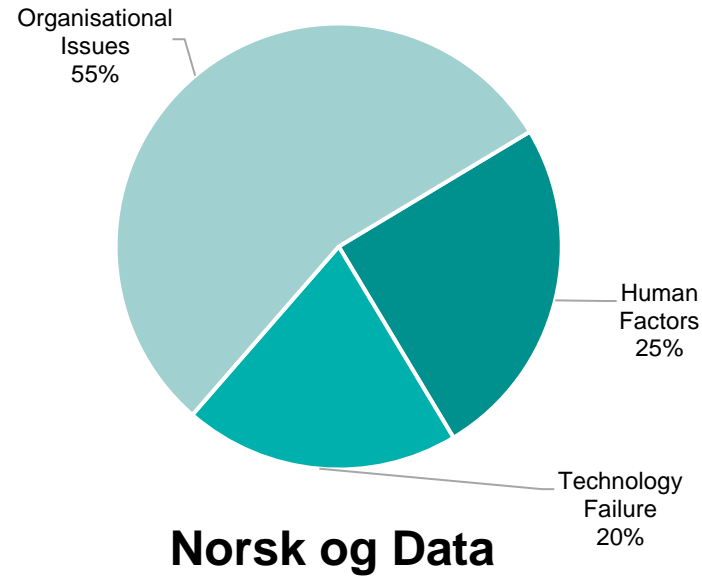
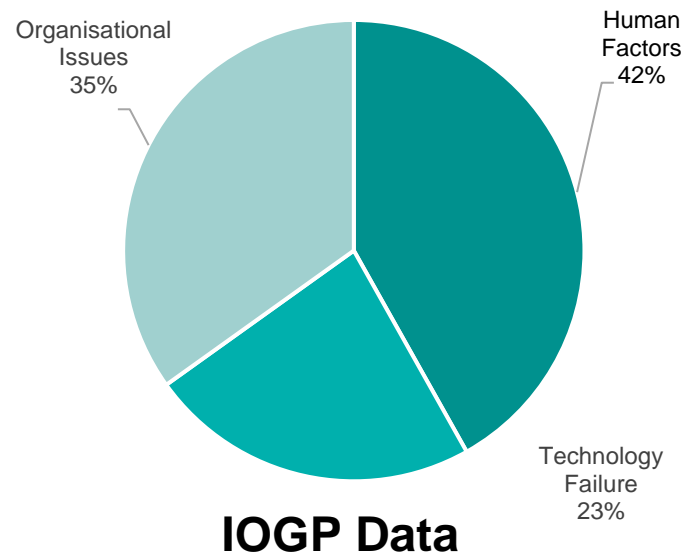


The triggering causes of 54% of kicks could be mitigated or prevented by EKDS and automated response

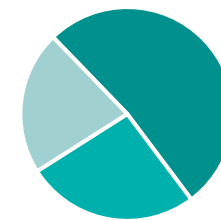
Well Control Incidents



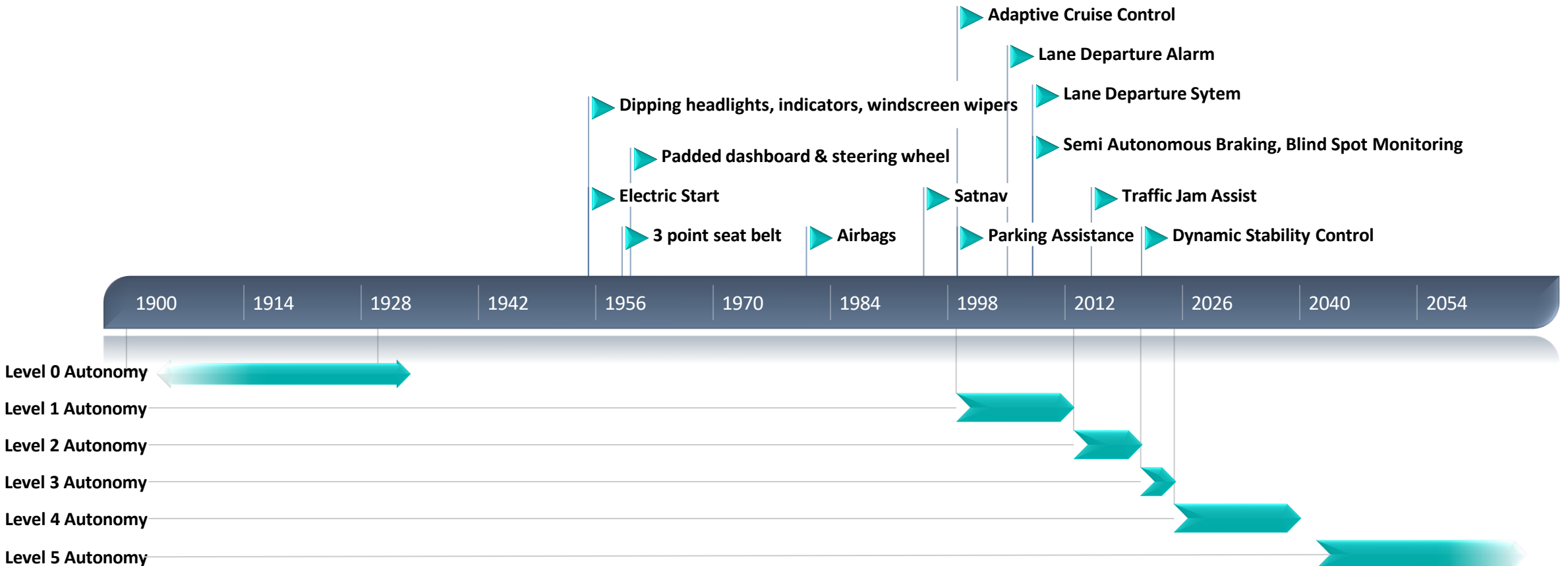
Data Analysis – Key Contributing Factors



Only **20-35%** of Well Control incidents can be definitively attributed to **Technology Failure** the remainder are attributed to either **Organisational Issues or Human Factors** which could be mitigated by automation



Automation in the Automotive Industry



ABS and Dynamic Stability Control



The Benefits of Automation

Safety

- The end result is pre-determined

Assurance

- Protocols, procedures and sequencing can be agreed before operations commence

Consistency

- the sequence duration is pre-determined

Execution

- the sequence will continue unless halted

Why Automated Well Control?

Reduced Well Control Risks?

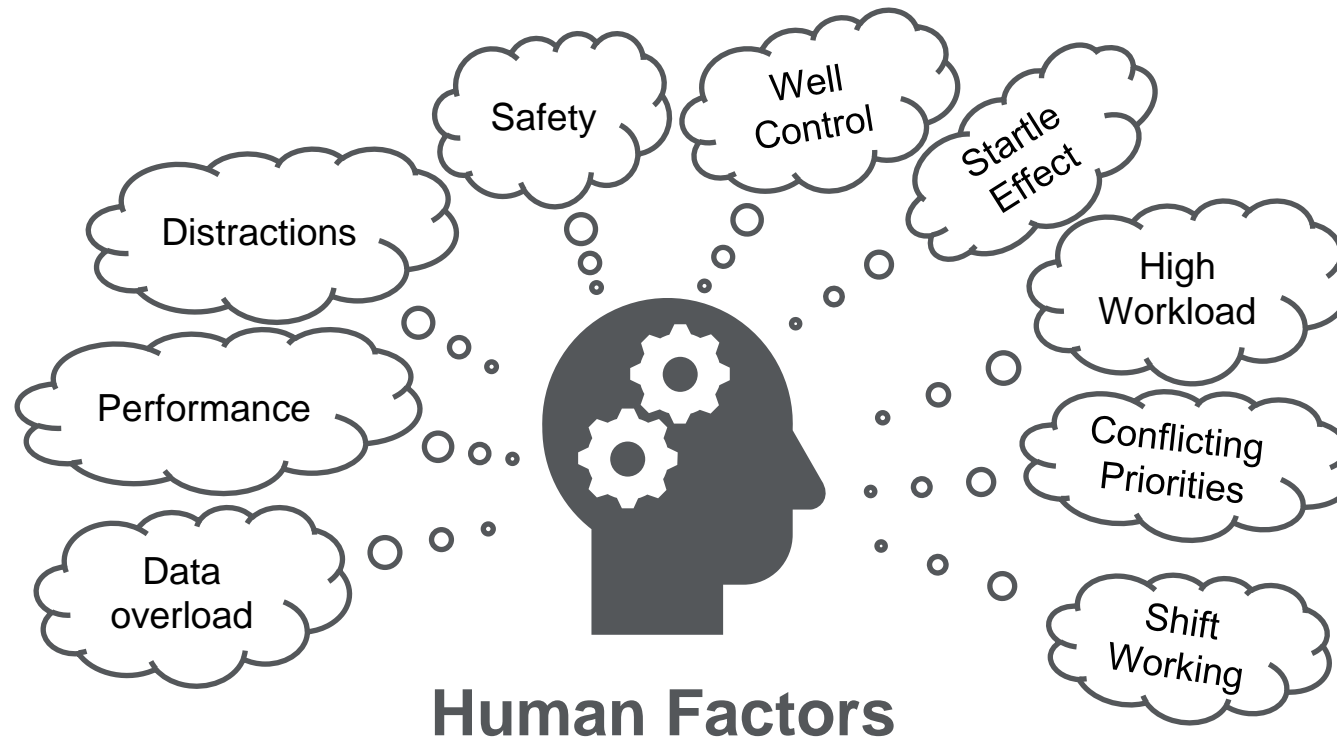
Cost Effective Wells?

Environmental Performance?



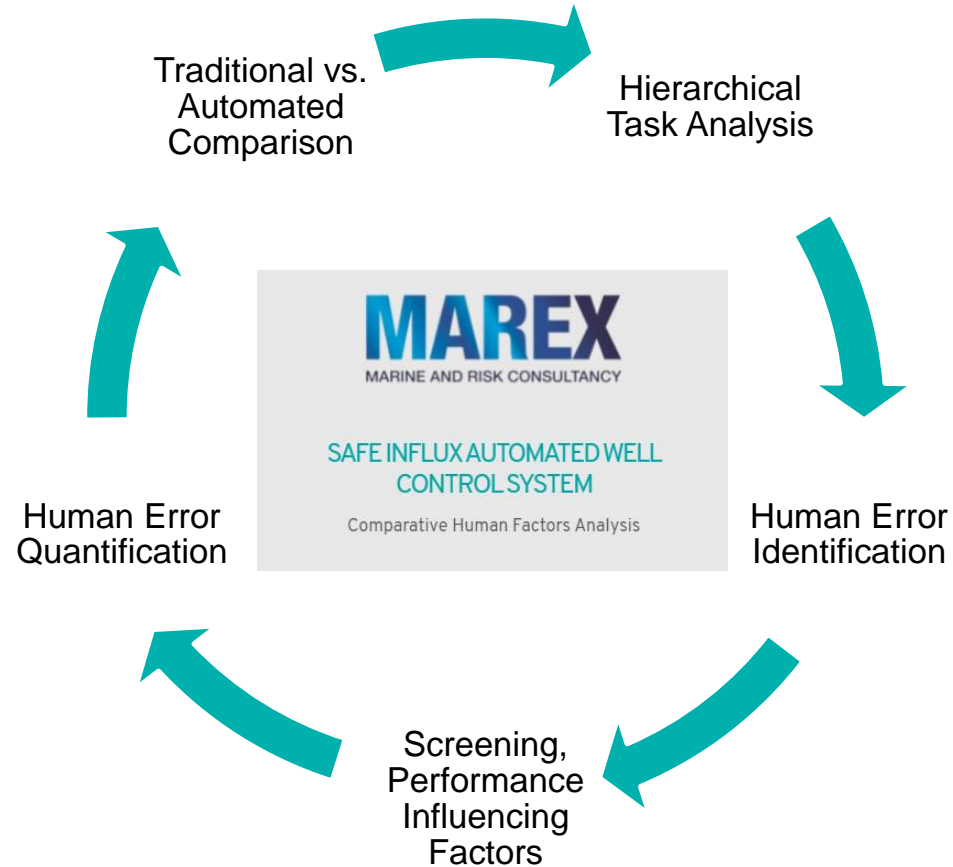
[Safe Influx Automated Well Control Field Trial - Oct 2019 - YouTube](#)

Human Factors



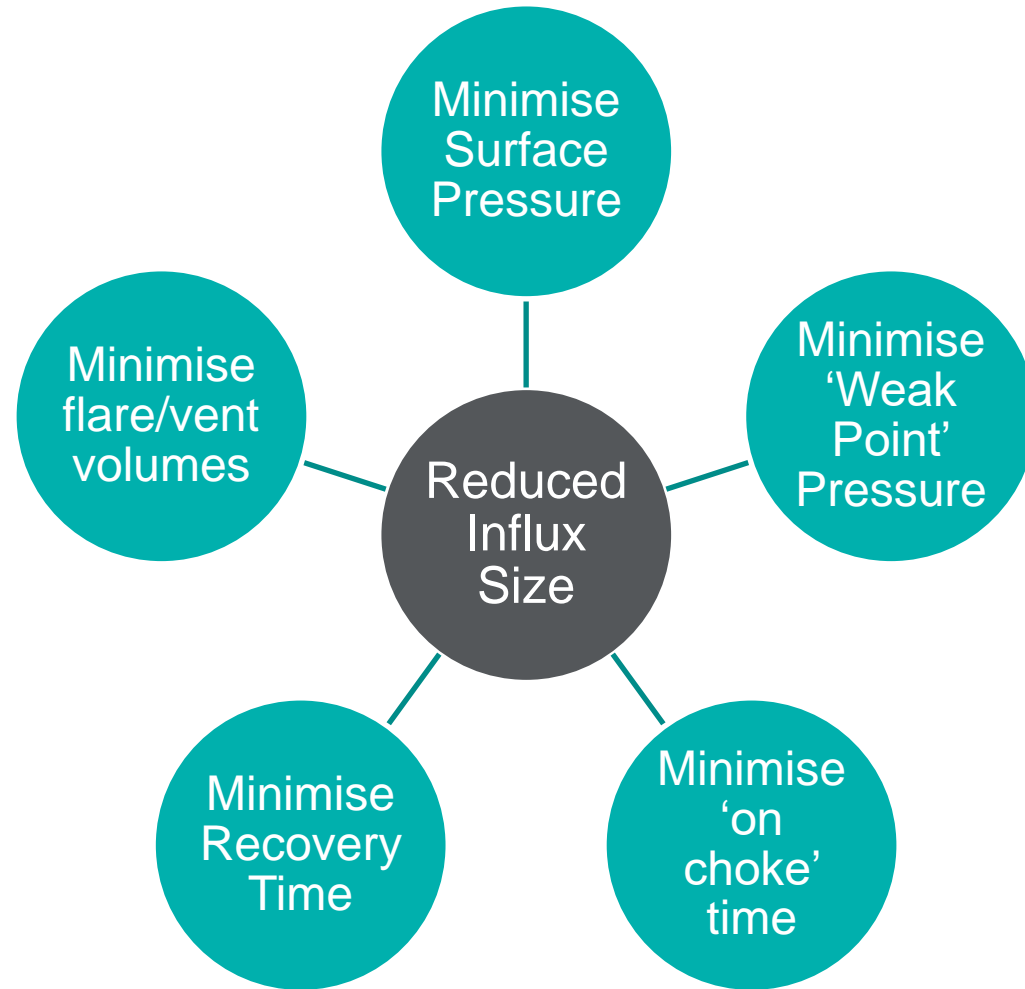
Drillers' loss of Level 1 Situational Awareness (loss of attention) causes
up to 67% of blowouts

Comparative Human Factors Analysis

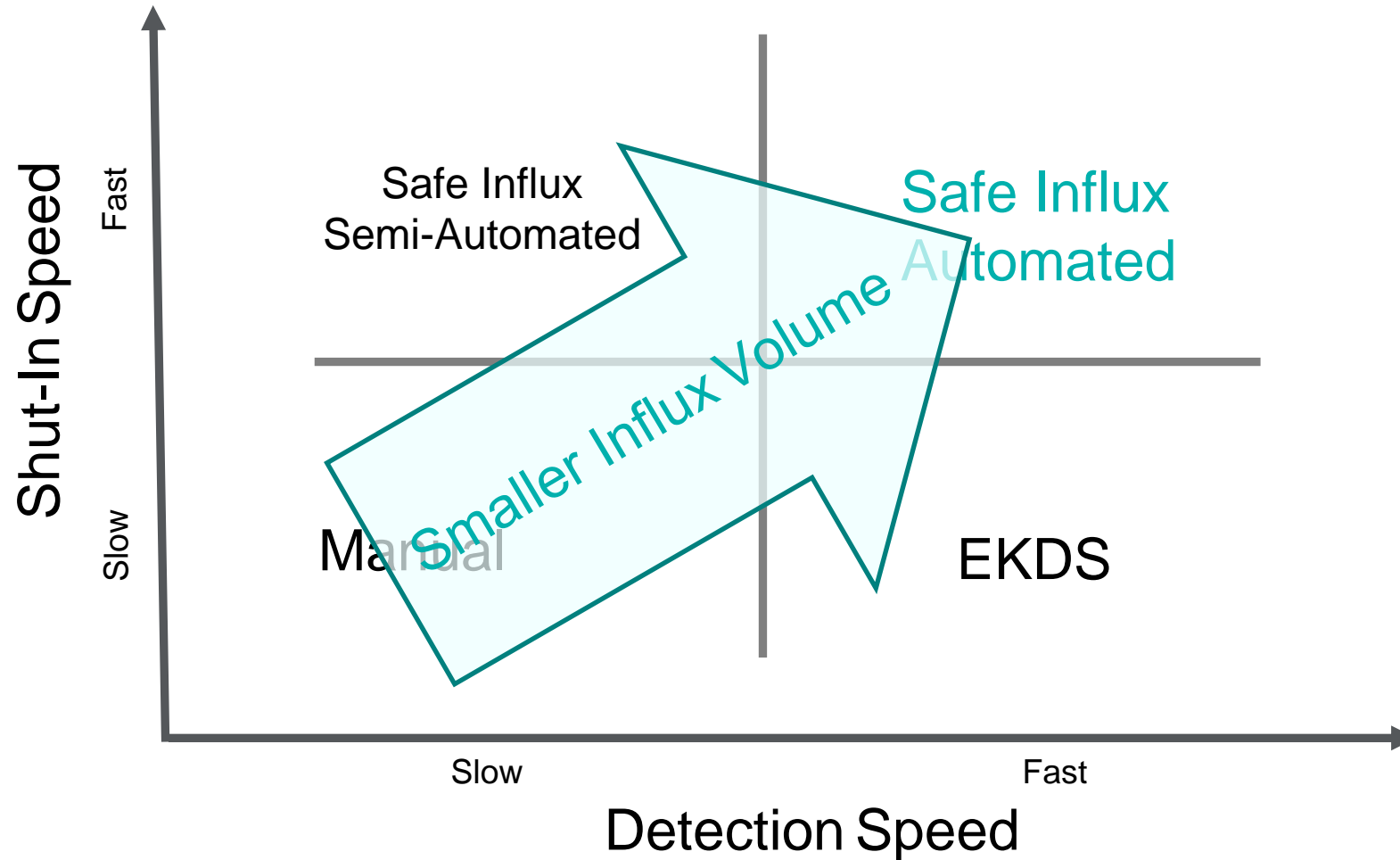


94%
Reduction in
Probability of
Human Error

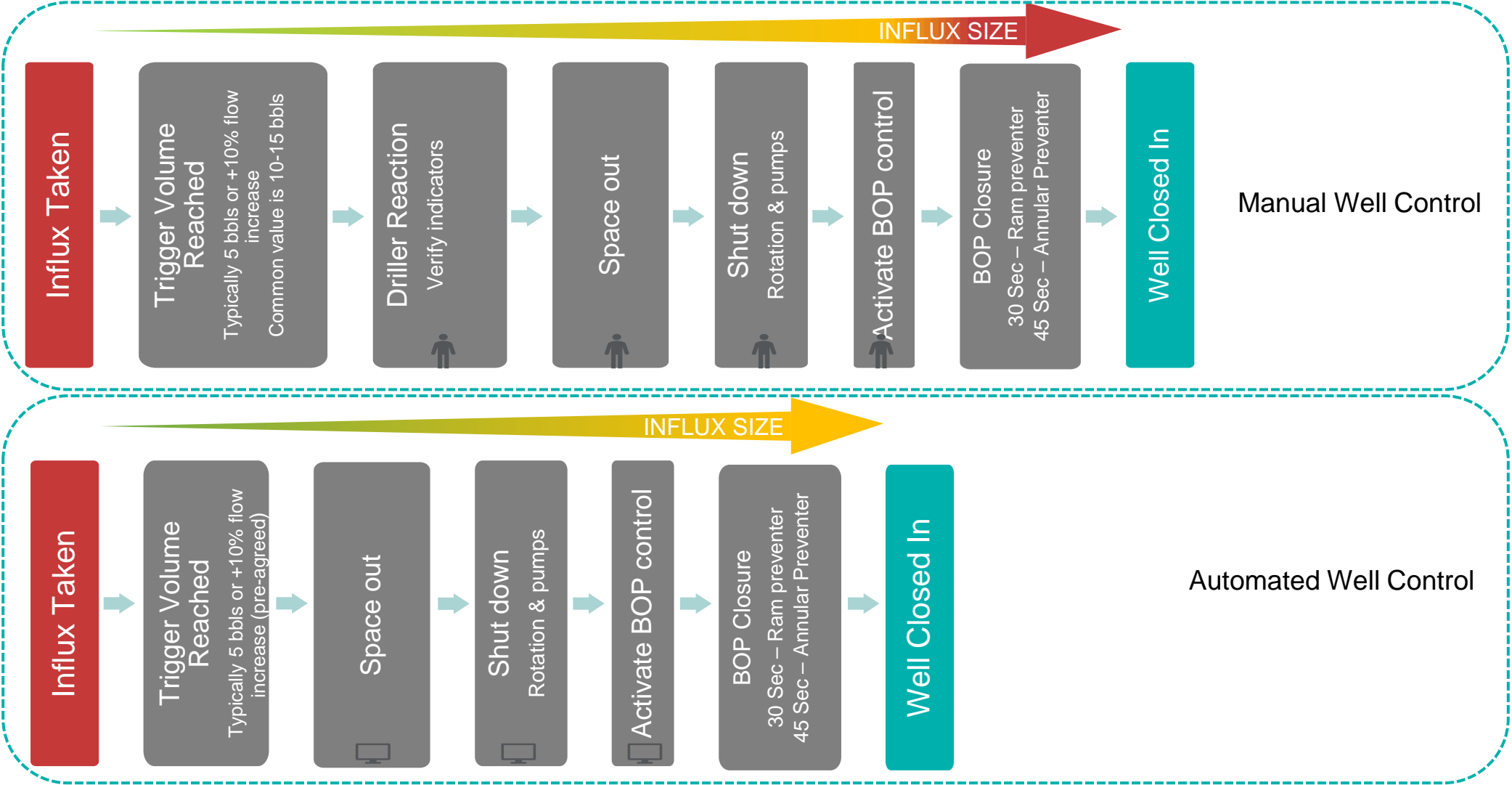
Reducing Influx Size



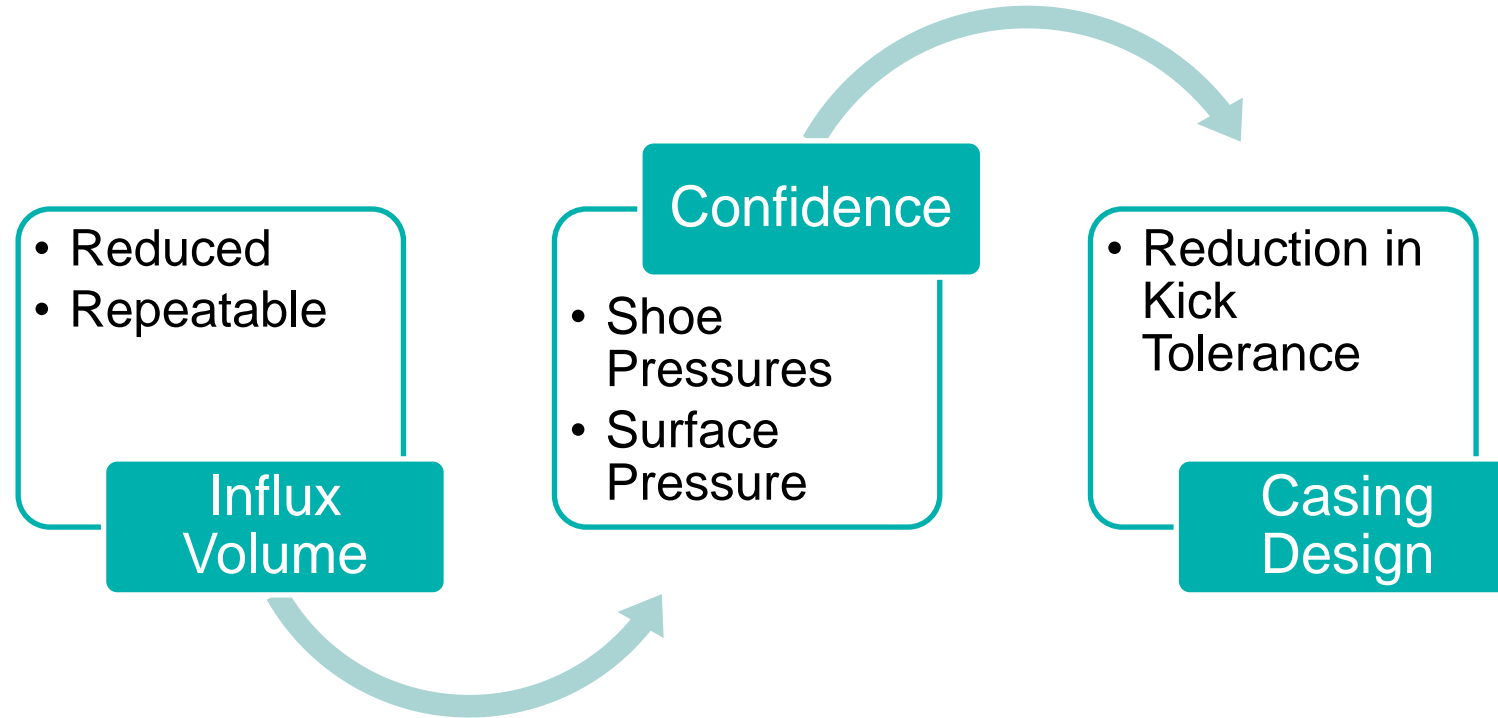
Influx Volume



Influx Volume



Casing Design



A reduction in kick tolerance parameters could result in the modification of casing design standards and in some cases lead to a reduced casing scheme for a given well type.

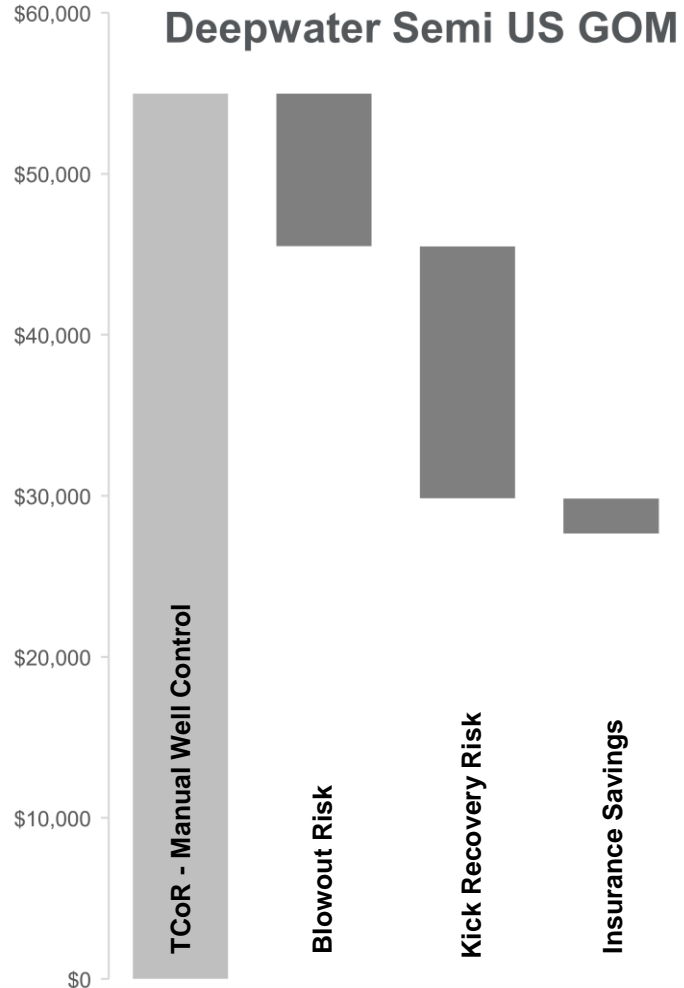
Study on UKCS Jurassic and Palaeocene targets has indicated that a 20% reduction in well costs could be achieved.

Total Cost of Risk – Well Control

TCoR Model



TCoR Results



Key Points

Cost of Risk often not articulated in well AFE

Potential for up to 50% Risk Cost Savings per well with Automated Well Control

TCoR Model could include NPV of deferred / lost production

Why Automated Well Control?

Reduced Well Control Risks

Reduction in probability of human error by 94%
Enhanced decision-making, efficiency and safety

Cost Effective Wells

Smaller influx volumes
Reduced well control costs
Reduction in casing and well costs by 20%

Environmental Performance

No spills
Reduced carbon footprint

Why Automated Well Control?

Reduced Well Control Risks

- Reduction in probability of human error by 94%
- Enhanced decision-making, efficiency and safety

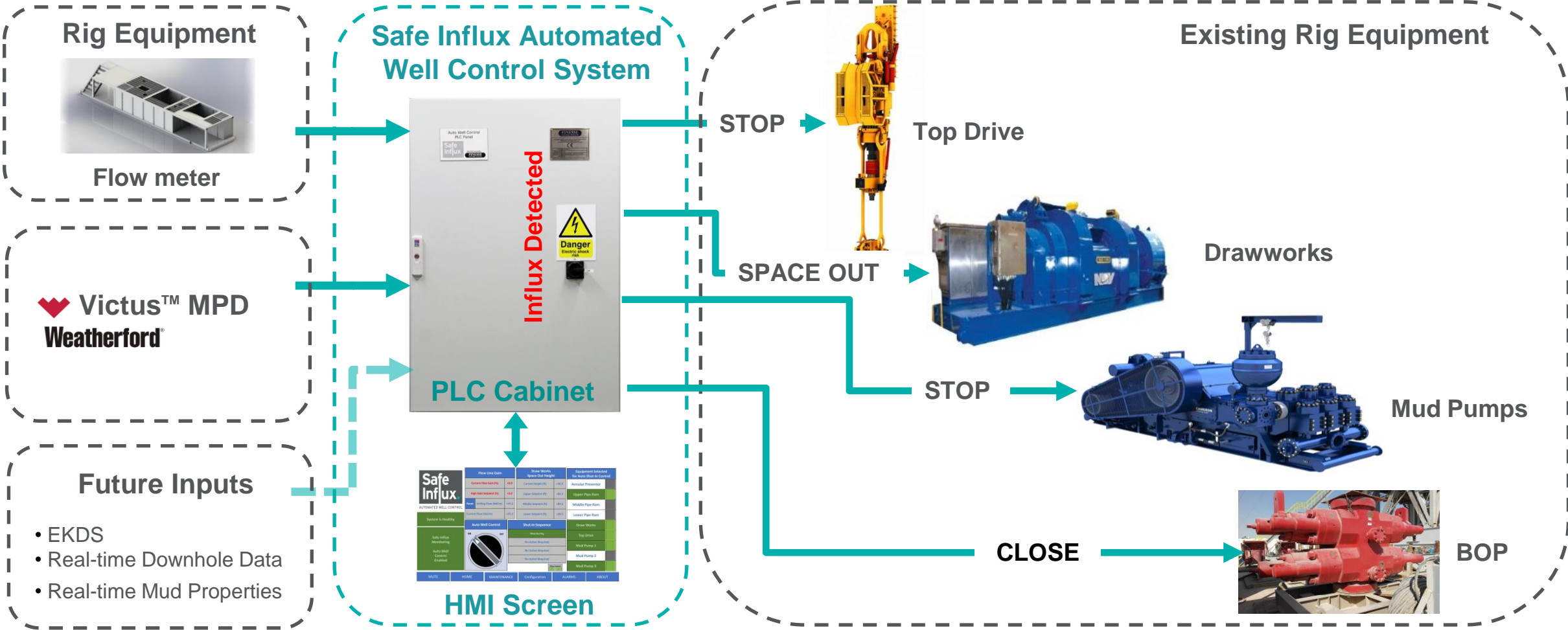
Cost Effective Wells

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Environmental Performance

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Automated Well Control - System Topology





AUTOMATED WELL CONTROL

Flow Line Gain	
Current Flow Gain (%)	+0.0
High Gain Setpoint (%)	+2.0
Reset	Drilling Flow (bbl/m) +25.2
Current Flow (bbl/m)	+25.2

Draw Works Space Out Height	
Current Height (ft)	+40.5
Upper Setpoint (ft)	+84.2
Middle Setpoint (ft)	+84.2
Lower Setpoint (ft)	+38.5

Equipment Selected for Auto Shut-In Control	
Annular Preventer	Grey
Upper Pipe Ram	Green
Middle Pipe Ram	Grey
Lower Pipe Ram	Grey
Draw Works	Green
Top Drive	Green
Mud Pump 1	Green
Mud Pump 2	Grey
Mud Pump 3	Green

System is Healthy

Safe Influx Monitoring
Automated Well Control Enabled

Auto Well Control

ON OFF

Shut-In Sequence
Monitoring
No Action Required
No Action Required
No Action Required

Data Comms

PLC 1 PLC 2

MUTE

HOME

MAINTENANCE

Configuration

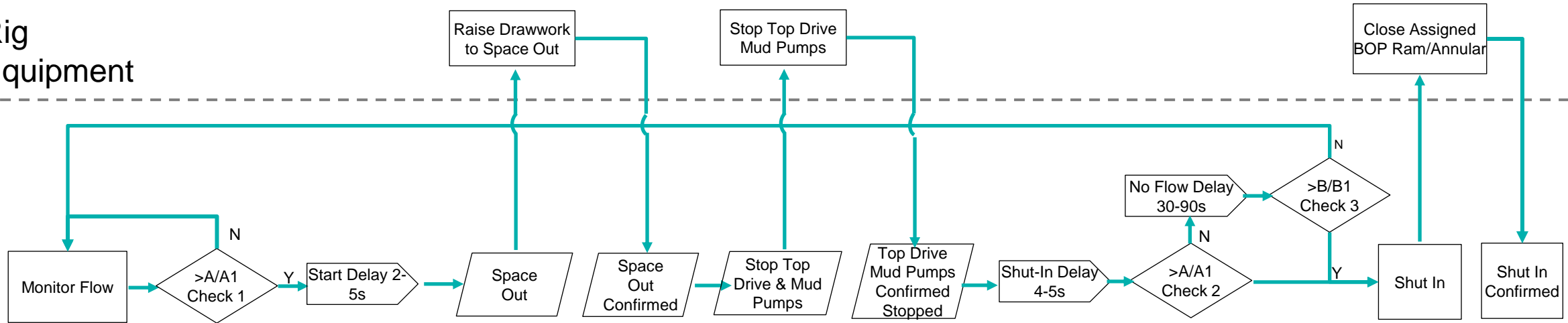
ALARMS

ABOUT

Automated Well Control – Logic Diagram

Drilling Ahead

Rig Equipment



Driller



Automated Well Control – System Overview

Overall Philosophy

- Uses existing rig monitoring equipment as Input for Influx Detection
- Interfaces with, and controls, existing rig drilling equipment
- Existing Rig Safety Systems remain fully functional
- Can be installed on both Conventional and Cyber based Drilling Systems
- Efficient install process minimizing impact on Operations

System Design (Cyber)

- Small Footprint (PLC Cabinet and HMI Screen)
- Easy Interface with Existing Drilling Controls Systems
- Interface arrangements to stay in place for future re-instatement



PLC Cabinet

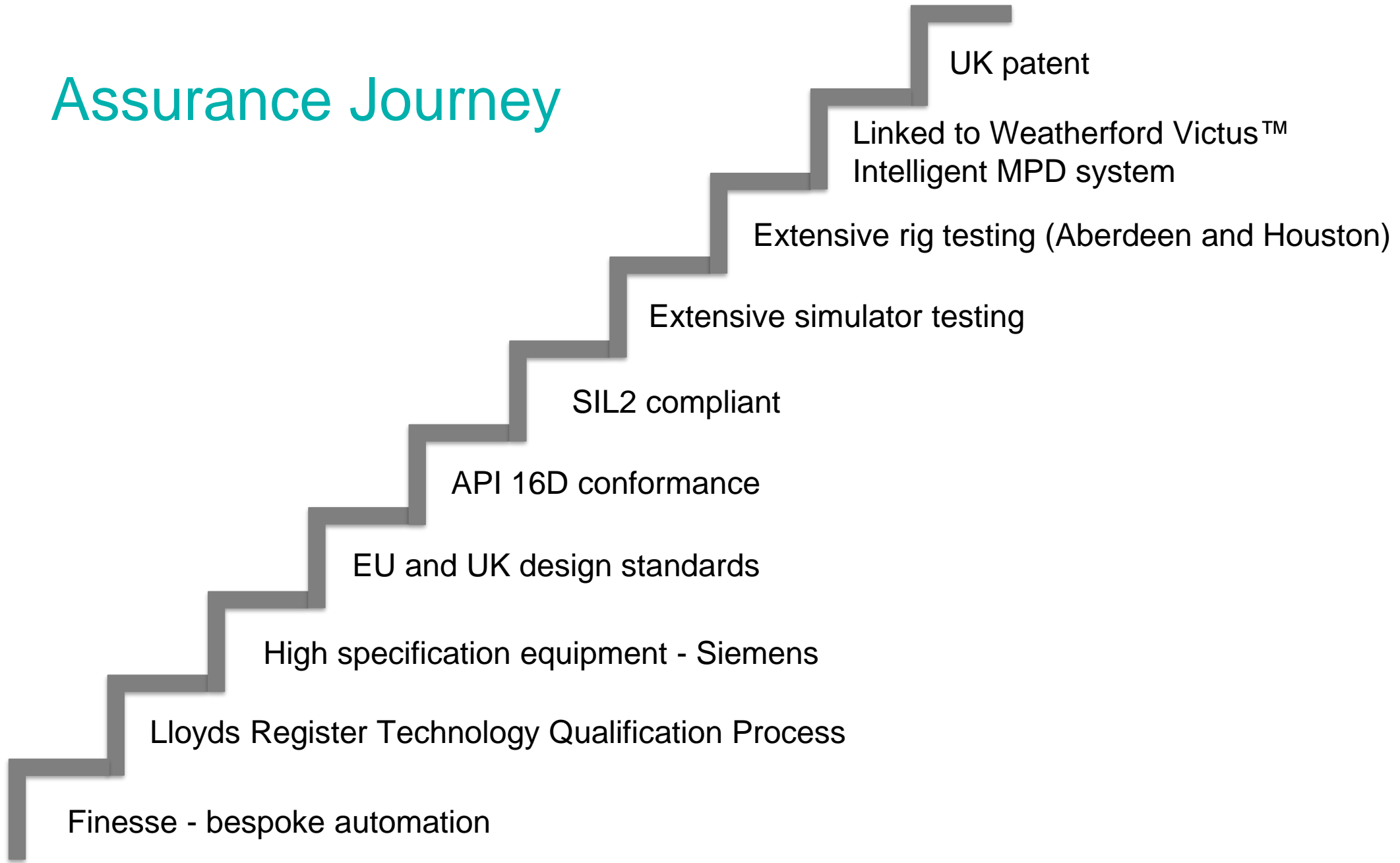


HMI Screen

System Installation

- Rig Survey 2 Persons for 2-3 days (no impact on Operations)
- Design / Fabrication 3-4 months (driven by PLC supply)
- Installation / Commissioning 2 Persons for 2-4 days (limited impact on operations, most can be done off-line)
- Training ½ - day (Driller, Tool Pusher, AD as a minimum)

Assurance Journey





[Tested for Success | Weatherford Victus™ Intelligent MPD and Safe Influx Automated Well Control - YouTube](#)

Useful Links



www.safeinflux.com

**Comparative Human Factors Analysis
Insights into the IOGP Well Control Database
Field Trial
Automated Well Control/MPD**

<https://www.safeinflux.com/reports/>
<https://www.safeinflux.com/reports/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMqtmolHkIA>
<https://www.weatherford.com/en/landing/tested-for-success/>

SPE-202091-MS

Automated Well Control: From Automated Detection to Automated Shut-In
Presented at SPE/IADC Middle East Drilling Technology Conference and Exhibition - May 2021

SPE-206385-MS

The Integration of MPD and Automated Well Control Technology
Presented at IADC/SPE Managed Pressure Drilling & Underbalanced Operations
Conference & Exhibition - Sep 2021

Safe Influx Automated Well Control

Protection against blowouts

Risk and cost reduction

Peace of mind

www.safeinflux.com

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