



## Curriculum Vitae

# Olivier Houzé



After his graduation from the glorious Ecole Polytechnique (France) in 1982, Olivier Houzé was granted an MSc scholarship in Petroleum Engineering at Stanford University by Flopetrol (Schlumberger) in 1983. Actually, he had never heard about Stanford but accepted the scholarship a millisecond after finding the place on the map. He achieved his Masters in a record nine months, research included, but cheated by taking some easy Math units and scraping a few C's. He was feted by his advisers (Hank Ramey and Roland Horne) as one of the most forgettable Stanford students ever. This is actually not far from the truth, as, to this day, no one really remembers him ever being there.

He joined Flopetrol in 1983 and started as a field engineer where he was successively assigned the positions of watch-the-dead-weight-tester-but-please-do-not-touch-anything, well test helper, well test operator, well test chief operator, Electric Line Service chief operator and Interpretation engineer.

He spent most of his field time in the Middle East, especially in Yemen, the UAE and Oman with a couple of missions to the North Sea. He was on the first wells in Yemen for Hunt Oil where, when the Bedouins arrived on the scene, he successfully bartered for his life in exchange for the oil remaining in the separator. Wearing orange coveralls long before they became fashionable on YouTube, he left Yemen before they returned to ask for his head.

Having hammered enough chicksans, learnt all the jokes about o-rings, engineers and frogs, paid for his Paris flat, poisoned himself for life with mercury sampling and wasted sufficient rig days, he was at last neutralized and assigned to the Flopetrol R&D center in Melun. He was assigned to a project to develop a production log interpretation software he unwisely christened PMS (Production Monitoring Software). It took him two years to find out why the bloody Brits were laughing their heads off at his presentations and, in a sulk, decided that Pressure Transient Analysis was much more fun. Besides the humiliation, PTA had only two lines to look at and fathom out what was going on as opposed to all those wriggly PL tracks that get far too confusing. So the course of history was set.

He left in 1987, when Flopetrol euphemistically merged with Schlumberger, and co-founded a new consulting company to be called KAPPA with his former Flopetrol colleague Dominique Bourdet. Olivier developed Saphir Generation 1 as he could not afford to buy a package with which to consult in his exciting new venture. Things got worse when he could not even sell his services to the French. But they did ask him if they could buy his software if he would be good enough to leave the building. Completely surprised that he now co-owned a software company he became KAPPA Managing Director in 1991. In 1992 he stopped programming when it became too complicated, and since then he has been focusing on designing toolbar buttons, the color of the WEB site background, feeding the fishes of his aquarium and lots of other important things.

Olivier Houzé has written and reviewed a few SPE papers, taught one or two courses, attended forums when they were in nice places and was one of the unhappy few co-authors of the 2009 Pressure Transient Testing SPE Monograph. He is also the main author of the KAPPA Dynamic Data Analysis book, which is by far the best-selling book in the oil industry, because it is free. A bug in the SPE database put him forward to become an SPE Distinguished Lecturer for 2012-2013. Other such mistakes may follow.

Most of all Olivier Houzé is the official skipper of the KAPPA boat on which he may take you to see dolphins and whales off the Riviera coast. Thanks to a notorious lack of imagination the first boats were named **Stehfest**, **Wavelet**, **Wavelet<sup>2</sup>** and **Wavelet<sup>3</sup>**. How about the 2012 boat? **Wavelet<sup>4</sup>**? **Voronoi**? **Deconvolution**? **ShaleGas**? Or simply **Merci KAPPA**?

A more boring resume follows on the next page...



# Curriculum Vitae

## Olivier Houzé



Born on the Ivory Coast in 1959 and having served as a French officer, Olivier obtained his engineering degree from the French Ecole Polytechnique in 1982, followed in 1983 by a MSc in Petroleum Engineering from Stanford University, USA. He worked four years with Flopetrol, obtaining field experience and working in R&D before leaving in 1987, with Dominique Bourdet, to co-found KAPPA Engineering where he continues to actively lead the Company today as CEO.

### **1983-1985: Field engineer with Flopetrol (Schlumberger)**

- Trained as a graduate engineer in France on well testing, slickline and e-line operations. Subsequently based in Sharjah, UAE Olivier worked in the field rising to chief operator, field engineer and test supervisor. Moving from field to office analysis he worked with clients to design tests from an engineering and hardware perspective. Areas of operation included the UAE, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan, Egypt, Qatar and the North Sea.

### **1985-1987: Research & Development engineer with Flopetrol (Schlumberger)**

- Upon transfer to the R&D office in Melun, France, Olivier led the production log analysis development project from design, coding to field release. Simultaneously he provided field training and support to Schlumberger and client engineers throughout the world in transient analysis.

### **1987-1991: Technical Director of KAPPA Engineering**

- Olivier co-founded KAPPA Engineering with Dominique Bourdet and wrote analytical solutions for ELF Norway. Thereafter he developed the first generation of Saphir (PTA software) that is now the most commonly used transient analysis in the industry. With the global development of the software he consulted for, and trained, clients on all continents.

### **1991-2012: CEO of KAPPA Engineering**

- Actively leading the Executive of KAPPA he is moving the company towards an integrated formation evaluation software environment providing integrated tools that can cope with challenging production environments such as unconventional resources, multi-billion data and shared discipline environments. Having grown the KAPPA from two to more than a hundred employees, and whilst being heavily involved in commercial and administrative challenges, Olivier unashamedly keeps a technical focus on the company. In his 'spare time' Olivier is also the principle author and editor of the KAPPA Dynamic Data Analysis on-line book.

### **SPE activity**

- Attendee, committee member and co-chair of numerous SPE Forums, ATW's & Conferences
- Wrote several papers on Pressure Transient Analysis
- Former member of the SPE review and SPE Well Testing committees
- Co-author of the 2009 SPE Monograph on Pressure Transient Testing
- Presentations at numerous SPE chapters and conferences
- SPE Distinguished Lecturer for the 2012-2013 season