

# Acquire skills needed for the oil & gas sector

**OIL Skills needed for the industry**

- 1 Fitters
- 2 Millers
- 3 Drivers
- 4 Setters
- 5 Masons
- 6 Riggers
- 7 Drillers
- 8 Joiners
- 9 Painters
- 10 Plumbers
- 11 Carpenters
- 12 Rough Neck
- 13 Electricians
- 14 Scaffoldings
- 15 Black Smiths
- 16 Tool pushers
- 17 Store Keepers
- 18 Safety officers
- 19 Blasting crews
- 20 Lathe operators
- 21 Crane operators
- 22 NDT technicians
- 23 Boring personnel
- 24 Fork lift operators
- 25 Welding inspectors
- 26 Welders- Structural
- 27 Painting inspectors
- 28 Charge Hand Trainers
- 29 Welders- Radiography
- 30 Structural Fabricators
- 31 Electronics Technicians
- 32 CNC machine operators
- 33 Inspector of fabrications
- 34 Heat Treatment Technicians
- 35 Instrumentation Technicians
- 36 Heavy Duty Mobile operators
- 37 Waste Management personnel
- 38 Pump Technicians / Mechanics
- 39 Cathodic Protection Technicians
- 40 Lifting Planning and Supervisors
- 41 Inspectors for machine operations
- 42 Fabricators for Pressure Equipment
- 43 Lab Chemists & Corrosion technicians

By Daniel Kagawa

## COMMENT

New opportunities are opening up in the oil industry, often in hostile physical environments such as deep water and in remote locations, far from existing infrastructure. These opportunities present challenges that drive us to extend limits of our technologies.

Many of these projects are huge and capital intensive and because of these risks, there is a greater degree of technical risk and cost uncertainty such that only adoption of latest technologies can help us. Technology is still the lifeblood of the oil industry.

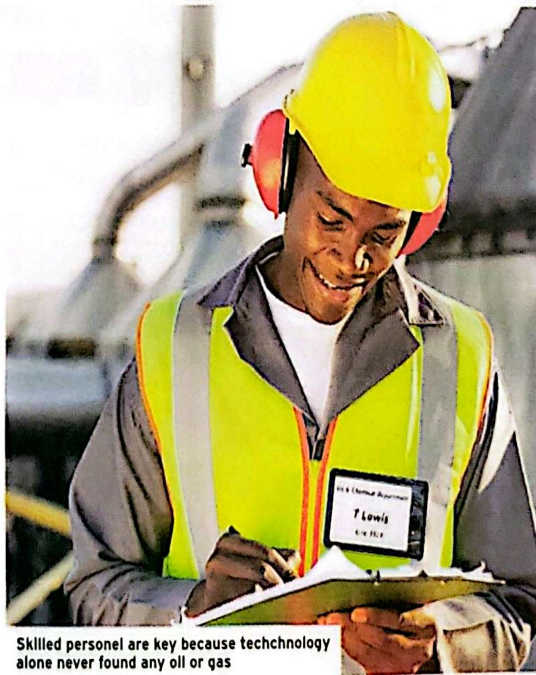
However, we need to ensure that the industry maintains a sufficient supply of technical expertise both in terms of experienced personnel and a steady supply of new talent to train and develop. Technology alone never found any oil or gas. It is the successful application of technology that really counts.

Technology and its application are integral to success in the future. Oil is heading for an era of cost-based pricing and is already there. Cost and pricing are chasing after each other on a downward slope and as they do, we will be driven to cut costs further to remain competitive.

This is done on three fronts people, technology and goods.

We (Uganda) have one of the fastest growing economies in the world; a young population, rapidly growing economy, robust primary education and we are presented with a great industrialisation opportunity through the oil and gas sector project.

In the next few years, the oil industry will provide thousands of direct and indirect employment opportunities to the youth of our nation should they acquire the appropriate skills to grab the emerging opportunities. It is estimated that all these activities will create approximately 160,000



Skilled personnel are key because technology alone never found any oil or gas

# 160,000

It is estimated that all these activities will create approximately 160,000 jobs across the upstream, midstream and downstream industries.

jobs across the upstream, midstream and downstream industries.

The resources required will range from semi-skilled, skilled to managerial; while there is need for engineers or equivalent (electrical, mechanical, chemical, structural, 3D piping system, health, (safety & environmental), majority of the resources will be skills-based resources such as artisan skills, including but not limited to (refer to list):

The country now requires high focus on the specialised education, skills, and entrepreneurial development and in the

institutional capacity building to meet this high demand and the emotional expectations of the people due the

anticipated boom in economy.

Our people must not let go of this once in a life time opportunity

The Government should, therefore, play a direct and active role in skilling Ugandans in the oil and gas sector.

There is need to maintain a long-term perspective, consider decentralisation of activities, empowerment of women and the underprivileged, provide tax benefits, provide subsidies, etc.

In a bid to create the capacity to provide the semi-skilled and skilled manpower, the Government has recommended the private sector to established partnerships with universities and other technical institutes.

Further, in order to develop local talent and encourage industry, the Government issued a statute mandating minimum local content in all projects.

The Final Investment Decision (FID) is expected in the second half of this year, the activities are also expected to ramp up in the next 12-18 months, there is a genuine concern on the how prepared we are to provide the requires human capital for the oil and gas sector.

The oil and gas sector operates with high standards, i.e the international standards so these resources must be certified to international oil and gas standards, the training institutes must be accredited to the international standards such as City and Guilds, OPITO, etc.

The is a need to transform some of our already existing human capital to be able to service the oil and gas industry through certification, incubation and mentorship.

The youth need to be aware of the opportunities the oil and gas industry presents; in the most basic form the youth, i.e Senior Six leavers, university and tertiary students should know that a typical entry level corporate skilled job in the existing industries will be paying \$200-\$275 per month as compared to \$2,500-\$3,000 for a similar job profile in the oil and gas sector.

The writer is the managing director, Conexus Oil & Gas Limited