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PD 12(1) Reserves of Natural Gas Outside the Communist Bloc Countries

Authors	M. T. Halbouty (Michel T. Halbouty Energy Co, USA)
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RESERVES OF NATURAL GAS OUTSIDE THE COMMUNIST BLOCK COUNTRIES Michel T. Halbouty, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Michel T. Halbouty Energy Co., 5100 Westheimer Road, Houston, Texas, 77056, United States of America. Abstract. The proved natural gas reserves of countries outside the Communist Block as of 1.1.83 are

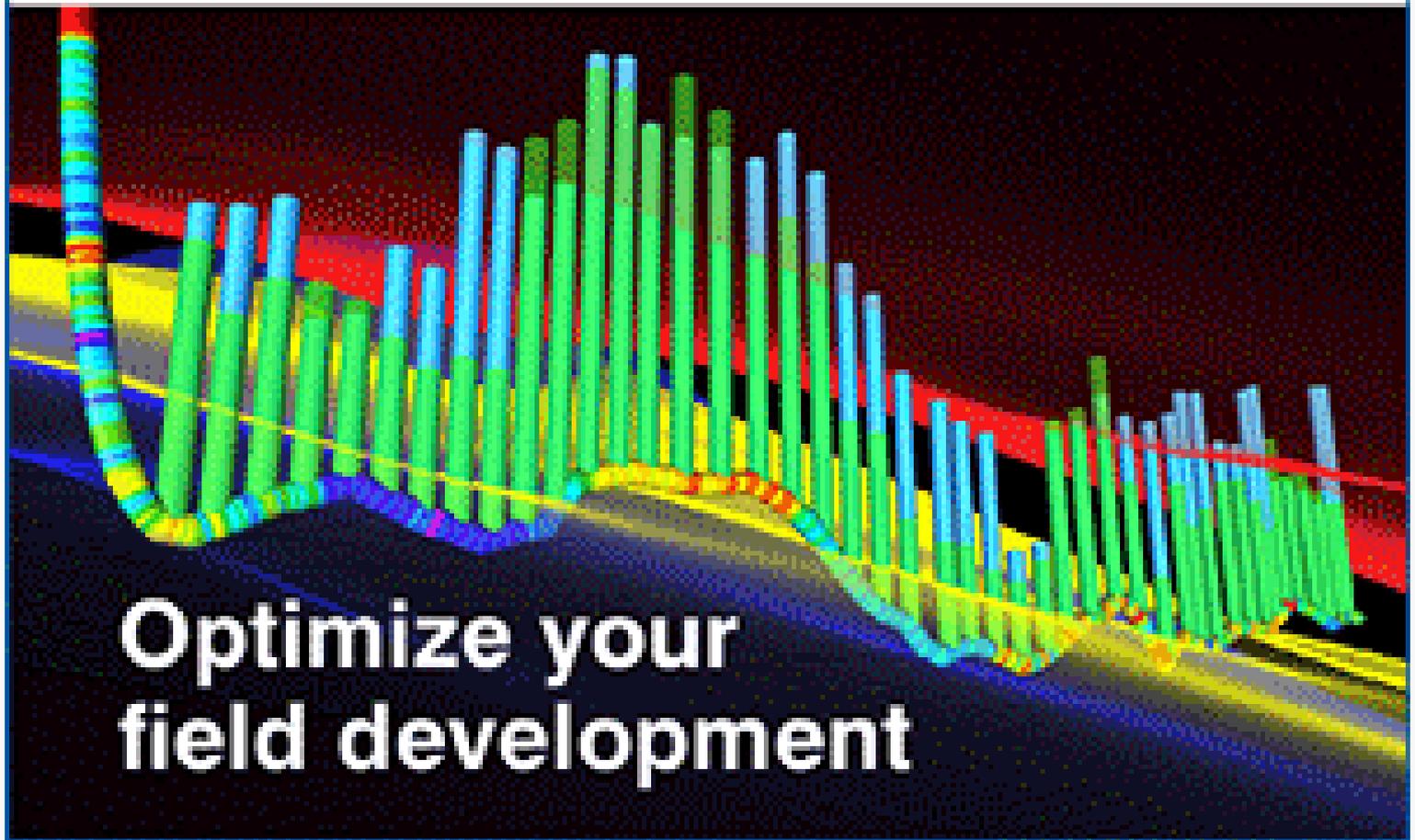
estimated to be approximately 2003 Tcf (56.72 Tcm). Current geologic, engineering and economic assessments indicate that although these proved natural gas reserves are sizable, there are more reserves yet to be added to the resource base than have been found to date. The estimated undiscovered potential is approximately 2901 Tcf (82.15Tcm). Many of the present producing basins have yet to be fully evaluated and the vast frontier areas-onshore and offshore, in both moderate and harsh physical environments-await extensive exploration. Thus, there are good possibilities that the natural gas reserves of countries outside the Communist Block, i.e. the United States, Canada, Latin America, Western Europe, the Asia-Pacific regions, Africa, and the Middle East can be greatly increased. To arrive at these conclusions, this study concentrated on rapidly advancing technology, re-evaluation of known and newly discovered gas fields, reassessment of prospective areas which were previously considered uneconomical for exploration and development, additional potential resulting from deeper drilling, and the removal of many regulatory restraints which had previously discouraged extensive exploration in many areas of the world.

Résumé. Les réserves prouvées de gaz naturel en dehors des pays communistes étaient évaluées au 1er janvier 1983 à environ 56.72 10¹² m³ (2003 Tcf). Les estimations géologiques, techniques et économiques actuelles indiquent, malgré l'importance de ce chiffre, qu'il existe d'autres ressources à ajouter à celles trouvées maintenant. Le potentiel non encore découvert est estimé à 82.15 10¹² m³ (2901 Tcf). De nombreux bassins actuellement en production doivent faire l'objet d'évaluations complètes et il y a de vastes zones frontières-& terre comme en mer dans des milieux au climat aussi bien modéré que sévère-où une exploration poussée doit être entreprise. Ainsi, il existe de bonnes possibilités d'accroître considérablement les réserves de gaz naturel de pays non communistes tels que les Etats-Unis, le Canada, l'Amérique latine, l'Europe de l'Ouest, les régions Asie- Pacifique, l'Afrique et le Moyen-Orient. Pour arriver à ces conclusions, l'étude s'est appuyée sur l'évolution rapide de la technologie de pointe, la réévaluation des gisements de gaz connus et récemment découverts, les estimations nouvelles de zones possibles où l'exploration et le développement avaient été précédemment jugés non économiques, l'étude du potentiel supplémentaire résultant de forages plus profonds et la suppression de nombreuses contraintes administratives qui

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