

Is There Value in Acquiring Higher Trace Density Seismic?

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Summary

There has been a significant move to acquiring higher trace density seismic both in Canada and around the world in the last several years. It is unquestionable that high density seismic has provided significant economic uplift to many exploration and development projects, but the real question is will high density seismic benefit all projects? That is, will high density seismic reduce the breakeven point (BEP), and improve the NPV on all projects. The answer is... Probably not...

The question then becomes how do we determine if high density seismic should be acquired, and how 'high' should it be? The answer to this question needs to be based on the goals of the seismic project. Before considering any seismic project, the goals must be clearly defined by the exploration/development team. After all, exploring and developing hydrocarbon project's is a business, not a science experiment. We need to invest the least capital with the largest reward.

To achieve this we will look at a 3 step process on how to maximize the economic value of seismic in a project.