

Adrian J. Wells Bsc (Open), MIET, Eng Tech

Discipline: Telecommunications Systems Engineer (Retired)
Date of birth: 23-11-1962
Location: Western Isles, Scotland



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Career and Skills Summary

I have been employed as a telecommunications technician in HM Forces and as an engineer in the Oil & Gas Industry in a maintenance and commissioning role. This has given me a good technical base in the discipline. I have gained additional experience with IT, SCADA and marine equipment and systems. Having worked in varied military and industrial environments, I have been able to develop a range of practical and personal skills that I have found invaluable in the workplace.

These include: -

- Good communication and negotiation skills, being able to contribute suitably when required to influence decisions.
- Adaptable to change in working practices so often experienced in today's climate of diminishing resources and demand for greater business efficiency.
- Suited to working as a team member but can also function well as an individual, having developed a degree of self reliance while working in some remote locations, where leadership, information and expertise were not immediately to hand.

Qualifications & Training

Degree with Honours in Mathematics BSc (Open University)
BTEC National Diploma in engineering (Telecommunications Systems).
HM Forces (Royal Corps of Signals) Systems Technician T1.
3 A-levels, 7 O-levels.
Registered by the Engineering Council as "Engineering Technician".
Member of the Institution of Engineering and Technology.
(Currently studying for LPI certification for Linux System Administration)

Satellite Communications: NATO communications school, 3-month course.
Ford Aerospace OJT course.
Ferranti International equipment course.
DMS Ku Band Spacetrack 4000 maintenance
Nera Inmarsat B installation and maintenance

Computer Maintenance: Introduction to VMS and Micro VAX for engineers.
Micro VAX II system maintenance.
Introduction to UNIX (Lowestoft College).
Hands on introduction to Linux/Unix (Learning Tree International).
Hands on PC configuration & trouble shooting (Learning Tree International).
Advanced PC troubleshooting & data recovery (Learning Tree International).
Hands on introduction to Linux (Learning Tree International).
AMRAF Windows 2000 server and networks.

SCADA / Telemetry: Transmittion Microtel 700 RTU course.
Serck Controls Proteus 2000 RTU course.
Mitsubishi PLC ladder logic programming.

Telecom courses: GPT ISDX system management course.
Ascom Timeplex Statmux and LPVS course.
Instrumentation in hazardous areas (SCOTA).
Fibre optic installation and testing (City & Guilds).

Offshore Certification: GMDSS General Operators Certificate (Feb 1998)
DTI certificate of competence in radiotelephony (April 1991).
UKOA combined survival, firefighting & first aid (Feb 2007).
Montrose offshore firefighting school certificate (July 1991).
IRATA industrial rope access level one (No. 1/14634) (December 2005)

Career History

Dec 98 to Dec 2014 Field Telecommunications Technician
BP Schiehallion FPSO (West of Shetland)
BP Ltd.

Responsible for preventive and corrective maintenance, and modification of all IT, telecommunications, positioning and marine telemetry and communications systems on the vessel. Working as part of a close knit, and highly efficient, operations team. A great deal of diversity was required of me, so as to maximise the benefits of my skills for the vessel. I acted as first line support for network, PC and server hardware, application and operating system problems, providing assistance to users as required. All work being performed under a safety management and loss control system, for which I received formal and "on the job" training. The vessel came to the end of its service life in 2014 and was towed to Rotterdam for preparation for sale. I took early retirement at this time.

June 91 to Dec 98 Field Telecommunications Technician
BP Miller offshore oil and gas production platform
BP Exploration Ltd. (Agencies D.M.S. Ltd. & E.A.E. Ltd.)

Construction

Assistant to telecommunications construction engineer. Supervision of installation vendors to ensure the correct installation of telecommunication equipment to relevant engineering standards.

Commissioning

During the offshore "hook-up", oversight of the preparation of equipment for commissioning, to ensure compliance with procedures and specifications. As a member of the operations team, I gave advice to the operations management as to the suitability of systems for handover.

Operation

Performance of fault diagnosis, breakdown maintenance, preventive routine maintenance and modification to all platform telecommunication systems and equipment in safe and hazardous areas, including the following: - A dual link Ku band (Eutelsat) satellite communication earth station, multiplex equipment, speech compression equipment, LOS, PABX, PA system, data communications, an optical fibre based LAN and associated servers and computer equipment, SCADA, radio equipment using marine and air frequencies, radio beacons, paging equipment, intercom systems, flame proof and intrinsically safe equipment and the platform entertainment system. Working alone or with one other FTT, organising most of our own work and reporting to the control department supervisor, being required to contribute to instruments/control work during shut downs and periods of high workload. Advising platform management with telecommunications related matters as necessary. Supervision of telecommunications vendors during their stay on the platform. Acting as first line assistance for all platform PC users for hardware, software and application problems, referring to an onshore support organisation for problems above my technical level. I also had considerable input to the installation of new equipment and systems. The platform restructured its organisation into self-managing teams to enable the optimisation of efficiency as field hydrocarbon reserves became depleted, a process in which I became actively involved.

Sept. 90 to June 91 Telemetry Engineer
BP Exploration Forties field and pipeline
(Agency - Data Marine Systems Ltd.)

A member of a 6-man team to maintain and diagnose faults on a mainframe based SCADA system for an oil pipeline, associated pumping stations and offshore oil production platforms. Fault diagnosis, repair and maintenance of associated equipment and systems including a tropo-scatter station utilising space and frequency diversity, multiplex equipment and a wide range of digital and analogue terminal and ancillary equipment.

July 81 to July 90 Systems Technician
Royal Corps of Signals

This involved a total of 24 months of formal, full time training and then during my first 3 years service in the field, 12 months "on the job" training. After this I was employed to maintain telecommunication equipment in workshops and to provide field first line support for mobile and static trunk systems. During my service I spent 2 years as a maintenance technician at a broadband satellite communication ground terminal for the NATO phase III satcom system, and 4 months as a field service technician for a digital, microwave, LOS trunk network for the Falkland Islands. I attained the rank of sergeant in 1988.

Interests and pastimes.

I enjoy gardening, hillwalking and fishing. I have a keen interest in computing, particularly in the Linux operating system having produced my own linux distribution for the Psion 5mx.