



Exploration and Production of Oceanic Natural Gas Hydrate: Critical Factors for Commercialization

By Michael D. Max, Arthur H. Johnson

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This book describes aspects of the natural gas hydrate (NGH) system that offer opportunities for the innovative application of existing technology and development of new technology that could dramatically lower the cost of NGH exploration and production. It is written for energy industry professionals and those concerned with energy choices and efficiencies at a university graduate level. The NGH resource is compared with physical, environmental, and commercial aspects of other gas resources. The authors' theme is that natural gas can provide for base and peak load energy demands during the transition to and possibly within a renewable energy future.

This is possibly the most useful book discussing fossil fuels that will be a reference for environmentalists and energy policy institutions, and for the environmental and energy community.

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Editorial Review

Review

“The authors, experts in the geoscience and engineering of GHs, show that near-future energy needs will rely on a natural gas component to make up for hourly to seasonal production shortfalls in electricity demand. This book should be a handy resource for geoscientists in both government and NGOs, power-generation technologists, policy makers, energy economists, and graduate-level students in ocean energy science. The first five chapters cover the geoscience and economics of GH production; the remaining six cover the operations side of GH production and engineering. This should quickly become the standard reference for GHs.” (Tom Klekamp, President of Amber Resources, L.L.C., 39 years of diverse oil industry experience)

“Natural Gas Hydrates have always been considered a fringe science with many parallels to fusion power. They are both known to be technically possible but are always 30 years away. By providing decades of knowledge and understanding of the entire energy landscape, from the geologic formation to the light switch of the end user, the authors formulate a cogent and practical argument for Natural Gas Hydrates becoming a significant component of the not too distant energy future. Their detailed account of the horizontal drilling and fracking revolution and its far ranging and ongoing impact on the world economy shows how NGH may be poised to be the next evolution of fossil fuel production . . . for better or for worse from a climate perspective. In the age of bookmarks this book provides a valuable and handy guide to many of the questions the informed reader may have on the modern energy economy.” (Christopher Carstens is a Berkeley and Singularity University trained inventor and entrepreneur with more 15 years of experience in the conventional and renewable energy space)

From the Back Cover

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About the Author

Michael Max has a broad background including geology, geophysics, chemistry, acoustics, and information technology. Max has a BSc (History, Geology) from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, an MSc (Petroleum & Economic Geology) from the University of Wyoming, and a PhD (Geology) from Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland. He has worked as a geologist / geophysicist for the Geological Survey of Ireland, the Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, DC in shallow water acoustic propagation prediction, and the NATO Undersea Research Center, La Spezia, Italy in at-sea experiments and operational technology applications. From 1999 to 2011 Max was CEO and Head of Research for Marine Desalination Systems

LLC, which established a hydrate research laboratory and explored industrial applications of hydrate chemistry. He has been an author on many scientific publications and three textbooks and over 40 patents and patent applications. He assisted in the writing of the U.S. Gas Hydrate Research and Development Act of 2000. Michael was appointed by the Secretary of Energy to the Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee of the Department of Energy for 2014--2017, and is Co-Chair, Diving Committee of the Marine Technology Society. He has been a principal of HEI since 2001 and is also an Adjunct Professor in the School of Geological Sciences of University College, Dublin, Ireland. Max is a member of the Geological Society of America, Geological Society of London, American Geophysical Union, American Chemical Society, Explorers Club, Coast Guard Auxiliary, Acoustical Society of America, and American Association for the Advancement of Science, amongst others.

Arthur H. Johnson is a founding partner of Hydrate Energy International, LLC (HEI) and is engaged in energy consulting in the U.S. and throughout the world. Prior to forming HEI in 2002, Art was a geologist with Chevron for 25 years where his career included most aspects of hydrocarbon exploration and development. Art was instrumental in initiating Chevron's Gulf of Mexico program for gas hydrate studies in 1995. He has advised Congress and the White House on energy issues since 1997, and chaired advisory committees for several Secretaries on Energy. He has an on-going role coordinating the research efforts of industry, universities, and government agencies. Art served as the Gas Hydrate Lead Analyst for the "Global Energy Assessment", an international project undertaken by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) of Vienna, Austria and supported by the World Bank, UN organizations, and national governments that evaluated the energy resource base of the entire planet with a view to addressing energy needs in the decades to come. He is Chair of the Gas Hydrate Committee of the Energy Minerals Division of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) and has a continuing role as an AAPG Visiting Geoscientist. Art has published over 80 papers and articles, along with several books. These cover a diverse range of topics that include geology, geophysics, economics, and astrogeology.

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