

# **Best Practices for Fluid Sampling While Drilling**

**By: Nikhil Hardikar**

## **Abstract:**

Over the last few years, Sampling While Drilling would seem an obvious choice for specific well scenarios. However, the technology has been treated as somewhat new in the industry despite being reasonably mature.

The evolution of this technology and its present capability needs a critique so that it will enhance future applications. The lessons learnt and best practices need to be shared with a wider audience, to make it more acceptable and help realize the value.

The entire workflow from pre-job planning, selecting a particular technology to real-time monitoring and post-job analyses are uniquely tied together, with varied technical experiences, but it still needs to be made more harmonious.

With so many new technical developments, this subject needs a broader share to assimilate the value of information, save cost and deliver efficient operations.

It is expected that the interactive discussion on this topic will encourage operators to consider this technology not in isolation, but as an aid to optimize their operations, and put forward cases that allow continued innovation by technology providers.

## **Author Bio:**

Nikhil, currently an Independent Consulting Advisor, is a Subject Matter Expert (SME), for Fluid Characterization & Testing, based in Pune, India and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He holds a bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering, from University of Pune, India (1996).

He has about 27 years of industry experience; the last 17 years being in formation testing & sampling. He has authored 25 case studies and 18 technical papers in the formation testing & sampling domains of Wireline and Drilling disciplines.

Nikhil has presented at varied technology forums and is always eager to share his knowledge and learn from others. His experience covers a vast global geography and has contributed significantly to technology developments in formation testing via theoretical knowledge and practical experience.

He was nominated by operators for the SPE DL for 2021-22 and 2022-23 and has been a SPE volunteer judge for Section Awards, Student Chapter Awards, Asia Pacific Regional Awards; Energy4me Ambassador; PetroBowl quiz question writer, SPE KL Technical Webinar Content Strategist and is a Technical Reviewer for SPE Journal - Reservoir Evaluation & Engineering – Formation Evaluation and SPE Journal - Production & Operations.

Nikhil received the SPE 2021 Regional Award for Formation Evaluation, for the Northern Asia Pacific Region.