



INTERVIEW

## Paul Newey Sword Venture's Head of Digital Enablement

### Your Role & Responsibilities

#### ***How did you end up working for Sword Venture?***

Exiting academia to coincide almost perfectly with a one of the many slumps in oil price didn't seem like a great success at the time! However, it often transpires that things are meant to be and after a hugely rewarding 23 years at Venture (and now Sword Venture) I can now, somewhat incongruously, say that I'm glad of industries vagaries!

#### ***Tell us a little about your role at Sword Venture?***

It's my role, as Head of Digital Enablement to create the environment and culture of creativity, innovation and thought leadership around Digital Enablement. Our goals are to inform Sword Venture's direction and future capabilities in the context of technology advancement, energy industry trends and evolving client challenges.

#### ***What do you enjoy most about your role and working for Sword Venture?***

I'm new to the role so everything is a new experience, which is great. I'm relishing the opportunity to learn new skills from others at Venture and across the wider Sword team. Our new team of data scientists and data engineers is also teaching an old dog new tricks, making me completely review the way I looked at managing information, it's a real eye opener.

#### ***What makes Sword Venture different to anywhere you have worked before?***

This is a hard one to answer as I've always worked for Sword Venture! But what I can say with complete honesty, is that although having experienced the company through many iterations this is the most exciting time in its history.

#### ***What do you think is next for the Oil & Gas industry?***

Our industry faces a shift in economic and operational demands that will define the way in which we look at how we do business, not least here in the UKCS. The need to operate more effectively, efficiently and safely but with less resources (financial and human) is driving the development of different, innovative approaches.

Advances in digital technology, including advanced data engineering and data science are delivering proven results across the upstream lifecycle, especially where they can be fed with high quality, high volume, high velocity and highly integrated data sets.

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### Let's Get Personal.....

#### ***What is your favourite memory of your time at Sword Venture?***

There's no single favourite moment, after such a long at a company there are so many great memories its hard to pin it down to one..

#### ***What career development have you experienced with Sword venture?***

Lots! Venture has provided me a career of varied roles across a variety of clients allowing me to experience a broad spectrum of environments, systems, information types and most importantly people. Progression through the consultancy career path to Principal Consultant and onto my current role was supported by a succession of excellent managers, peers and team members.

#### ***What is the best piece of advice you have ever received?***

"Don't give up what you want most, for what you want now", which relates nicely to a another piece of advice which is both practical and philosophical "**Always look where you're going**" – unfortunately for me this was offered just after I'd walked headlong into the glass wall of a car showroom..

"Make it work first, you can always improve it later"

#### ***What is your ultimate, go to gadget or app?***

I've not got a go-to app or gadget, not since my ZX Spectrum 48K broke.

#### ***If you were on a desert island and you could only have three items with you, what would you choose?***

A new ZX Spectrum.  
A hamper from Fortum & Mason, if they deliver that far away. That way I can enjoy it all to myself.  
A boat – sailing is fun but so is escaping after the hamper runs out.

#### ***What's your favourite pastime?***

Sailing, unfortunately not often around a desert island so we make do with darting about Poole harbour at the weekends.

#### ***Three words that best describe you:***

Inquisitive, competitive and stubborn  
(apparently – I'd prefer determined)

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