
CURRICULUM VITAE

SUMMARY

David Aron has more than twenty years of experience as an energy expert witness. He is a chartered chemical engineer and a petroleum engineer. His new company (Energy Expert Witness Services) will carry out expert witness work for wind, solar and oil/gas disputes internationally. David has experience of most of the international centres of arbitration including the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in the Hague, World Bank Washington International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA). He has also appeared as an expert witness four times at the UK High Court. He previously was the Managing Director of Petroleum Development Consultants, an international oil and gas consulting company. He has British and German nationality.

EDUCATION

BSc. (Hons) Chemical Engineering, University of Manchester (1970)

MSc. History of Science and Technology, University of Manchester (1971)
Dissertation: "Academic Research and Innovation in the Petrochemicals Industry".

Diploma in Accounting and Finance, Association of Certified Accountants (1976)

MSc Petroleum Engineering. Imperial College, University of London (1979)
Dissertation: "Alternative Utilization of North Sea Associated Gas".

SPEAKER EXPERIENCE

"Key differences between financing oil/gas development compared to financing offshore wind",
Association of International Energy Negotiators, London, March 2024.

EXPERIENCE

State Investment Disputes

- Expert in an LCIA arbitration on UK coalbed methane Production Exploration and Development Licenses regarding the potential for development.
- Acted as an expert in a Paris International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) arbitration between the Libyan National Oil Company and an Asian national oil company regarding the license commitments under the production sharing agreements and was cross examined at the tribunal.
- Acted as an expert at the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), the Hague under United Nations Commission on International Law (UNCITRAL) rules regarding a claim by the Croatian government that MOL Hungary had failed to carry out its investments in INA, the Croatian national oil and gas company and was cross examined at the PCA.
- Acting as an expert in a tribunal held by the World Bank Washington International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) regarding the alleged obstruction by Croatia of MOL's investment in INA and was cross examined at the ICSID tribunal.

- Expert for UNCITRAL arbitration regarding the termination of a production sharing contract in Albania for alleged failure to carry out commitments.
- Acted as expert witness for the Government of Kazakhstan in a case of a \$600 million claim regarding a terminated production sharing contract at the Arbitration Institute of Stockholm Chamber of Commerce and was cross examined at the tribunal.

Energy Infrastructure Disputes

- Expert for ICC Vienna arbitration between contractor and owner for gas treatment plant in Tunisia and was cross examined at the tribunal.
- Expert for LCIA arbitration between international bank and national gas company regarding a security agreement for an LNG liquefaction terminal in Egypt and was cross examined at the tribunal.
- Expert for ICC arbitration between design and construction company and state oil company in North Africa regarding an LNG liquefaction plant. This dispute was set aside by the parties as part of a settlement of a number of disputes between them.
- Acted as an expert in a LCIA arbitration regarding an agreement to allow the development of certain gas resources under the jurisdiction of the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq.
- Acted as an expert in a LCIA arbitration for an oil platform construction in Vietnam and Malaysia involving Hyundai v Talisman and was cross examined at the tribunal.

Price Disputes

- Expert in UK High Court dispute between VTB Energy and the Antipinsky refinery, Ukraine regarding pricing of oil and oil products and appeared for cross examination at the High Court.
- Was invited by the UK Energy Institute to provide an expert determination for a pricing review for an LNG project in Australia delivering LNG to customers in Asia. Managed the process with each party stating their view and their provision of expert opinion to support their case.

Joint Venture Disputes

- Expert in LCIA dispute between an international operator and a Nigerian local partner regarding operation of joint venture agreement and appeared in the tribunal for cross examination.
- Expert in an UNCITRAL arbitration between a partner and operator regarding an operational dispute under the joint venture agreements for two hydrocarbon licenses in Hungary.
- Expert carrying out valuation of a minority interest in certain production licenses under the jurisdiction of the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq.
- Expert carrying out an assessment on the sale and purchase of a minority interest in an oil field in Sudan.

- Acted as expert witness for a tribunal under ICC rules in Copenhagen for a dispute involving lost profits for a joint venture in Lithuania and appeared in the tribunal for cross examination.
- Acted as an expert witness under UNCITRAL rules of an arbitration concerning sole risk operations in an oil license in China.

Tax Disputes

- Provided an expert report to the UK First-tier Tribunal (Tax Office) regarding an appeal for a capital allowance for gas cavern storage and appeared for cross examination at the tribunal.
- Provided an expert report to the UK Upper Tribunal Lands Chamber regarding an appeal for rating relief on the UK oil pipe network and appeared for cross examination at the tribunal.
- Expert witness for the Australian Tax Office regarding a major tax claim covering the Bass Strait offshore oil and gas fields and appeared for cross examination.
- Provided an expert report for an ICSID and North America Free Trade Association (NAFTA) case covering research and development requirements for the Canada-Newfoundland Offshore Petroleum Board.

Arbitration/High Courts

- Acted as an expert for A & V Oil and Gas in a public arbitration regarding an Incremental Petroleum Services Contract between A & V and Heritage Oil & Gas the national oil and gas company of Trinidad and Tobago for the Catshill oil field. Appeared at the tribunal for cross examination. The lease for the Catshill field was confiscated by Heritage – the arbitration led to a return of the lease.
- Acted as reservoir engineering expert in a UK High Court case involving owners of an Azerbaijan production license and an international bank and appeared in the High Court for cross examination
- Acted as an expert in a LCIA arbitration regarding an agreement to allow the development of certain gas resources under the jurisdiction of the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq.
- Acted as an expert for a UK High Court dispute regarding access to the UK onshore Palmers Wood oilfield through drilling deviated wells. The acceptance of the case for trespass led to the UK government changing the law on deviated drilling.
- Acted as an expert under the arbitration rules of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre regarding the award fees for a seismic survey.
- Acted as an expert for litigation in the Supreme Court of Gibraltar with respect to the development of the Vankor field, Russia.
- Acted as an expert witness in litigation at the High Court, British Virgin Islands in a case involving oil lubricants.
- Acted as an expert witness in a LCIA arbitration regarding the supply of valves for a Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) tank farm in Qatar.

-
- Acted as an expert witness in a LCIA arbitration regarding the supply of helicopters to the oil and gas industry in Turkmenistan.
 - Acted as an expert witness in a criminal case at the UK Southwark Crown Court regarding the supply of a Single Buoy Mooring for Iraq.
 - Acted as an expert witness in a UK High Court dispute about a possible new pipeline in Iraq.
 - Acted as an expert in a Scottish criminal court proceedings regarding testing services.
 - Acted as an expert for marketing issues for metal working fluids for the UK Commercial Court, Cardiff.

Supply Contract Disputes

- Acted as an expert for dispute under ICC rules regarding a gas supply contract between the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago and one of its industrial customers and appeared at the tribunal for cross examination.
- Acted as an expert for dispute under LCIA rules about oil trading.

Insurance Disputes

- Acted as an expert regarding a claim for insurance relief expenditure incurred by the Probo Koala and the treatment on a tanker of gasoline and the use of caustic soda and appeared for cross examination held at Gard, Oslo, Norway.
- Acted as an expert regarding an insurance claim for an alleged gas leak at the UK Milford Haven refinery and appeared for cross examination at the UK Commercial Court.

Gas Disputes

- Acted as an expert witness at the UK Bromley County Court regarding an alleged carbon dioxide leak from a domestic boiler.
- Acted as an expert witness for an expert determination regarding a leak on a UK Morecambe Bay gas platform.
- Provided an expert report for a planned UK Public Inquiry regarding a gas pipeline subject to a Compulsory Purchase Order. A settlement was made between the owner of the land and Transco which meant that the Public Inquiry was not required.
- Provided expert advice to UK housing association on required movement of a medium-pressure gas pipeline on cost and schedule.
- Acted as an expert witness at a UK criminal trial regarding damage to a gas meter and possible attempted murder implications.

Oil Disputes

- Valuation of petroleum products, Afghanistan
- Evaluation of heavy fuel oil delivery, China
- Evaluation of possible increase in bioethanol content in gasoline, Ireland.
- Evaluation of diesel to review quality, Pakistan.

- Review of fuel oil deliveries to refinery, India.

EMPLOYMENT

2023 – Present Managing Director, Energy Expert Witness Services
Manages and leads expert work on offshore wind, solar and oil/gas disputes.

1988 – 2024 Managing Director, Petroleum Development Consultants
Managed oil and gas consulting company both upstream and downstream projects in more than 70 countries.

1986 - 1988 Chief Development Engineer, Tricentrol
Responsible for development policy for a number of UK oil and gas fields. Represented the company on various Operating Committees, technical and project committees. Negotiated gas sales, transportation and unitisation agreements. Provided technical and commercial support for a major financing package. Supervised technical staff.

1984 - 1986 Senior Petroleum Engineer, Tricentrol
Provided a full re-evaluation of company's reserves. Introduced reservoir simulation and negotiated acquisition of software. Responsible for company test programme in New Zealand.

1982 - 1984 Advanced Petroleum Engineer, Marathon
Participated in the preparation of the development plan of North Brae, the first gas condensate field to be recycled in the UK. Responsible for the test programmes for the appraisal of the East Brae and Central Brae fields. Represented the company in technical discussions related to the development of the Valiant South, Vulcan and Welland UK North Sea gas fields.

1981 - 1982 Joint Venture Co-ordinator, Marathon
Involved in exploration and production in Abu Dhabi, Indonesia, Netherlands, Norway and UK.

1979 - 1981 Petroleum Engineer, Marathon
Responsible for all reservoir engineering for Ogharefe field, Nigeria. Conducted a number of economic evaluations. Evaluated reserves for development plan of Kakap field, Indonesia. Represented company during development of Heimdal field, Norway. Tested the East Brae UK North Sea discovery well.

1977 - 1978 Senior Planning Engineer, Bechtel
Responsible for planning the construction of the Murchison field topsides in UK and Netherlands. Considerable site experience at fabrication yards in the UK and Netherlands.

1976 - 1977 Planning Engineer, CJB Offshore
Responsible for planning of construction of topsides for Ninian South and Central platforms, UK North Sea. Responsible for planning completion of steel jacket at Nigg Bay. Site experience of Highland Fabricators yard at Nigg Bay.

1975 - 1976 Planning Engineer, Foster Wheeler

1973 - 1975 Technical Manager, Plastic Constructions Ltd

MEMBERSHIP

Fellow, Energy Institute

Fellow, Institution of Chemical Engineers

Member, Institution of Gas Engineers and Managers

Member, Association of International Energy Negotiators

Member, Academy of Experts

Member, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators

Member, Singapore International Arbitration Centre Reserve Panel of Arbitrators.