



THE VIRTUAL SEISMIC ATLAS PROJECT  
“sharing the geological interpretation of seismic data”.  
[www.seismicatlas.org](http://www.seismicatlas.org)

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Director: Rob Butler,  
Geology and Petroleum Geology, School of Geosciences, University of Aberdeen,  
Aberdeen AB24 3UE, United Kingdom  
[rob.butler@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:rob.butler@abdn.ac.uk)

Co-investigators: Bill McCaffrey and Graham Stuart  
School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, UK

Patrons: David Roberts and Richard Hardman.

*“The innovative Virtual Seismic Atlas has now been launched. This is a major contribution to teaching, training as well as research – and paves the way for further progress in the geosciences”.* Geo ExPro (May 2008)

Request for support for 2011-2012

**Gold membership:** 30K GBP/pa for two years

**Silver membership:** 20K GBP/pa for two years (returning sponsors: 18K GBP/pa)

**Bronze membership:** 9K GBP/pa for two years (SME rate, <250 employees)

**Background.** The Virtual Seismic Atlas (VSA) Project is generating an independent, free-to-use, community-based internet resource, which captures and shares the geological interpretation of seismic reflection data in picture and workbook format. It is widely used as a training resource by professional geoscientists, new hires and students. As content grows it is increasing used as a source for subsurface analogues of geological structures and as a hub for connecting with published knowledge. The VSA is now used by thousands of geoscientists a month, equally split between academia and industry. User statistics show c. 50,000 separate searches per month.

The VSA content is free at the point of access, both searchable and downloadable while acknowledging the intellectual property of contributors. It allows owners of data to promote their products and expertise. It connects industry with academia, creating new research opportunities. Above all it aims to educate and inform the wider community of subsurface geology. Driven by a bespoke knowledge management, search and retrieval system, the VSA offers a unique environment for finding seismic analogues for subsurface geology and for contrasting interpretations. Its picture and workbook capability provides ready-to-use training materials.

The VSA is far more than an image gallery. It hosts explicit links to original literature, contains supporting documents, animations and other visualizations. Where appropriate, it can provide links to external data libraries. It aspires to

becoming a global hub – and the IT solution has been explicitly designed to meet this ambition. Academic, government and industry- based partners and collaborators are authoring images, providing data for original research and education. It is used to host workshops on seismic interpretation and to share know-how. Our agreements with major publishers (e.g. the Geological Society and SEPM) and researchers guarantee both heritage and new interpretational content.

Phase 1 of the VSA project is now complete thanks to substantial support from an array of companies, partners and the UK's Natural Environment Research Council. The online publishing environment is implemented and stable. Content is growing. The result is now openly accessible at

[www.seismicatlas.org](http://www.seismicatlas.org)

Further information on the VSA, its background and the people involved is available on the VSA site.

### **Phase 2 developments**

Content will continue to grow on the VSA, especially assisted by our academic partners. We seek new and returning sponsors to support the following developments.

Enhanced VSA functionality:

- community authoring and uploading facilities;
- greater opportunities juxtapositions of VSA content while finding analogues;
- linking searches of VSA content to external content (e.g. Google Scholar);
- global geographic search features;
- community discussion spaces for appropriate seismic examples.

Substantial increase in content through:

- enhanced partnerships with international groups;
- greater range of global examples;
- greater range of geology;
- greater variety of imaging methods and strategies;
- studies of the impact of seismic technology.

Sponsorship will allow these activities. Gold sponsors will support individual research students with the option of hosting them as VSA interns, maximising involvement in content development. All sponsors can send delegates to the annual Advisory Group meeting and thus help to direct the content and functionality agenda for the VSA, and have the opportunity there to meet other partners. You will be acknowledged on the VSA site and at our exhibitions at international conferences. We are also happy to discuss ways in which the VSA content can be used more effectively for your own training, development and outreach activities.

**This call is now open.**

Please contact VSA Director: Professor Rob Butler ([rob.butler@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:rob.butler@abdn.ac.uk)).