

A joint academic and industry effort to produce paleoenvironmental insights

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Any geological dataset—such as a collection of geochemical measurements from an array of cores or seismic reflections of a singular basin—is valuable to multiple users in industry and academia. For centuries, collaboration between private, public, and academic sector partners has enabled the exchange of such datasets and the applied and pure science insights they facilitate. Still, a great deal of (often proprietary) data remains inaccessible, and, in turn, so do many potential scientific discoveries.

Given this fact and the observation that data throughput and availability are ever-increasing (due in small part to rapid advances in analytical and computational methods), it is time for researchers across sectors to revisit or develop new collaboration models. Here, we present an example of a successful joint academic and industry effort in which we use industrial data to test fundamental geological hypotheses. Through this case study, we highlight both the benefits and challenges associated with cross-sector collaboration. Furthermore, we explore how our efforts have reshaped future research plans and goals.