

BP Study Sessions: Industry-Academia Workshops into Game-Changing Technologies

SANTO BAINS¹

¹*BP plc, London, United Kingdom, TW16 7LN, santo.bains@uk.bp.com*

To find solutions to the formidable energy challenges of the future, we need to consider approaches that might totally change the game, to identify those big leaps forward that could have a revolutionary impact. Operating successfully at the frontier, arguably a defining characteristic of BP's technology heritage, not only means pushing what we know to the limit; it means trying to break into completely new territory.

BP 'Study Sessions' are a key part of how we try to do this. They bring together world-experts, leading academic thinkers and BP specialists to identify and debate areas with the potential to revolutionise the way we find, produce and deliver energy.

The sessions are short and intensive—typically lasting about a week. They involve deep analysis of nascent areas of research in an open environment, in which debate, challenge, and scrutiny are the watchwords. Participants are encouraged to be radical and challenging; to use whatever expertise they possess to look at issues from a fresh angle. The sessions bring people together from many different disciplines: geology, chemistry, biology, physics, engineering; industry and academia. Cross-fertilisation is encouraged because experience has shown that breakthroughs often occur when disparate ideas are yoked together in ways people never before thought possible.

In some cases, study sessions clarify that the prospects are distant and require big technical and scientific breakthroughs. In others, analysis may identify where technical barriers might be overcome by focused investment.

Keywords: BP, Industry; University, Academia; Energy; Technology