

Dr Charles Ellinas



Short Curriculum Vitae (C.V.)

Dr Charles Ellinas is the CEO of Cyprus National Hydrocarbons Company (CNHC). Prior to that he was a Director of Mott MacDonald and the Managing Director of Mott MacDonald's Oil, Gas & Petrochemical business world-wide, with over 35 years experience in the sector.

He was responsible for overall management and providing a focus for the Group's oil, gas and petrochemicals engineering and project management activities worldwide. This work won recognition through many major awards, the most recent being the Offshore Project of the Year Award at the December 2012 Oil & Gas Middle East Awards for the Zakum Water Injection project.

Cyber Terrorism and Cyber Attacks in the oil and gas industry

Cyber-attacks are a real threat to oil and gas industry. According to a Council of Foreign Relations of United States Report, cyber-attacks can take two main forms cyber espionage which foresees in collection of sensitive corporate data or communications with the goal of gathering commercial or national security intelligence; and disruption of critical business or physical operations.

The oil and gas industry needs to accept the idea that complete prevention of SCADA system inflection is impossible and the operators should be able to detect the virus, isolate it and control the inflection. In addition to the above, the threat cannot be dealt at a technical operation level by individual operators but requires a more holistic approach at a national level and cooperation of the oil and gas companies.

With the conflicts surrounding East Mediterranean the critical facilities in the region could become a target for cyber-attacks and as a result they must be taken seriously. Vasilikos LNG Plant would be the most valuable target in the island and could become a security concern, including attraction of cyber-attacks. The pre-FEED of the proposed Cyprus LNG Plant has been completed and it was recommended the cyber-security of the project to be addressed during FEED.