

The Professional Landmen's Association of New Orleans (PLANO) would like to nominate Benjamin J. ("Ben") Waring and Charles Miller, III of Energy Data Solutions, L.L.C. for the AAPL Pioneer Award for their efforts in the development, maintenance and continued growth of the Outer Continental Shelf Bulletin Board System found at ocsbbs.com. Launched in August of 1995 as the first 24/7 online database designed exclusively for the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf, the site has become a primary source of comprehensive OCS data for offshore landmen, among others, and is currently used by more than 350 companies in the upstream OCS energy industry.

The databased was initially created by manually compiling the record title and operating rights information for each federal OCS lease from the records of the United States Department of the Interior Minerals Management Service (MMS), now Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). Later, ocsbbs.com added the ability to view the historical source documents that affect real title to each lease. To accomplish this task, the group compiled and uploaded more than one million documents from MMS/BOEM records and indexed each one so that date and company searches as well as OCS abstracts of title could be performed on a leasehold basis. Updated regularly, the OCS BBS database now includes: weekly updates of Applications for Permits to Drill (APD), Lease & Well Production from 1947, Lease Status, Operators, Owners, Qualification Information, Lease Sale Information, Non-Required Scanned Documents Database and Pending Assignments, Operating Rights, Plans of Exploration and Development (POE & DOCD), Platforms, Pipelines, Paleontology Information, OSFR Designated Applicant, Bottom Hole Pressure Surveys, Lease P&A Liability Estimates, Serial Register, Regional and Company Gulf Wide Activity Tracking, Exploration Deals/Farmout Opportunities, online Offshore Landman Email Directory, Geological Data, BOEM Online Regulatory Forms, BOEM and Custom Weekly Activity Reports, Energy News, Offshore Oil Scouts Association (OOSA) Rig Report, Oil and Gas and Petroleum Resume Employment and Employer Job Posting Database, OCS Gulf of Mexico GIS Mapping and more.

Ben Waring is an AAPL member and Director and Past President of PLANO. He has worked extensively with the API-Delta Chapter, serving as Chairman in 2001 and receiving the Meritorious Service Award in March of 2007. He is also the recipient of the MMS Corporate Leadership Award (February 2002) and MMS Award for Well Data Clean-up (December 1999). Other awards include AAPG-Outstand Contribution (April 2000) and Desk & Derrick of New Orleans Certificate of Appreciation (June 2007). Notably, his company was also responsible for designing and hosting AAPL's first website under the leadership of then President Leon Hirsch.