
VIPIR News

Volumetric and Infrastructure Petroleum Information Registry [back](#)

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WORK UNDER WAY ON VIPIR'S BUSINESS SYSTEMS DESIGN

Work is well under way on Business Systems Design (BSD) of the VIPIR's central data registry, following the awarding of a contract to DMR Consulting Inc.

DMR was the successful bidder in a thorough and impartial RFP process that looked at bids from the six participating companies. The RFP was conducted through Alberta Infrastructure.

"DMR submitted an impressive proposal and went to extra efforts to develop a demo version for the registry," said VIPIR Project Director Jim Nichols. "I look forward to working with them and welcome the expertise they and their partners will bring to VIPIR."

Jim acknowledged the time and effort put in by the VIPIR Steering Committee and Advisory Group members who participated in the RFP evaluation process with Ministry of Resource Development officials. The process was necessary to ensure that the best proposal was selected.

During BSD, DMR will prepare a detailed cost and design estimate for the project. "By March 2001, we will have the detailed plans to confirm the January 2002 implementation date and provide all stakeholders with the information they will need to prepare for this change," said Nichols.

DMR Consulting Inc. (www.dmr.com) provides information technology and e-consulting services to industry, governments and organizations.

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WHAT IS VIPIR?

For those new to the project, here's VIPIR in a nutshell:

The VIPIR Project involves the development of an electronic shared information registry and re-engineered business processes. The registry will facilitate the exchange of data between upstream oil and gas industry partners and between industry and the Alberta Ministry of Resource Development.

The registry will be designed to provide industry and the Ministry with a single, authoritative source of valid, standardized, shareable, and timely petroleum-related information. This will result in significant dollar benefits for industry and the Ministry, further electronic commerce in Alberta, and advance current and future re-engineering of business processes and procedures.

NEW MANAGER TO COORDINATE INDUSTRY READINESS

Ross Weaver of Calgary, who has wide experience in the petroleum industry and business development, has been appointed Industry Readiness Manager for the VIPIR Project.

"This is a key role and we are delighted to have Ross on board," said Dave van Kampen of Talisman Energy Inc., who serves as Chair of the VIPIR Advisory Group. "We were very pleased with the high calibre of the candidates who applied."

Ross, who will be responsible for the readiness of industry to implement VIPIR, is President of PrimeQuest Resources Inc. He was President of Pan-Alberta Gas Ltd. from 1996 to 1998 and Vice-President, Marketing, for Suncor Inc., Resources Group from 1991 to 1996. He has an MBA (Finance and Marketing) from the University of Western Ontario.

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PROJECTS OFF AND RUNNING

The successful awarding of the contract for the Business System Design of the central data registry means that other projects and initiatives associated with VIPIR can also begin.

Registry development is one of 10 functional areas of the VIPIR project. The others are:

- Industry readiness
- Interfaces with Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) systems
- Interfaces with Resource Development (DRD) systems
- Ministry readiness
- Inter-operational testing
- Acceptance testing
- Implementation
- Training
- Communications

Completed stages include conceptual design (which included development of the business case for VIPIR) and business area analysis.

VIPIR Project Director Jim Nichols said the work under way means the process to streamline oil and gas industry reporting is “on schedule and on budget.”

5 STAGES PLANNED FOR REGISTRY

The Business System Design is the first of five phases in development of the registry that will ultimately provide industry and government with a single, authoritative source of secure, valid, standardized, sharable and timely petroleum-related information.

The Business System Design stage will be followed by four sub-releases. Each will address functionality for a portion of the total VIPIR system.

Once all four sub-releases are complete, the entire system will be acceptance-tested and implemented into production.

Throughout this period, the systems architecture will evolve based on testing experiences until it is ready to support the production version of the registry.

INDUSTRY TO SEE HOW SYSTEM OPERATES

By Mark Fawcett
Director, DMR Energy Solutions Group

DMR Consulting is excited to have the opportunity to work on the development of VIPIR's central data registry. We are very pleased to have been selected through the RFP evaluation process and are already in full operation with the complete DMR team on site.

Significant work has already been completed.

DMR plans to produce several prototypes of the VIPIR system, which will be demonstrated to stakeholders in both industry and government, showing how VIPIR will look and operate. We certainly appreciate feedback as it enables us to tailor the registry precisely to the needs of all future participants.

DMR has already presented a demo version at a Canadian Association of Petroleum Production Accounting (CAPP) meeting and more presentations will be made in conjunction with the VIPIR Project Team.

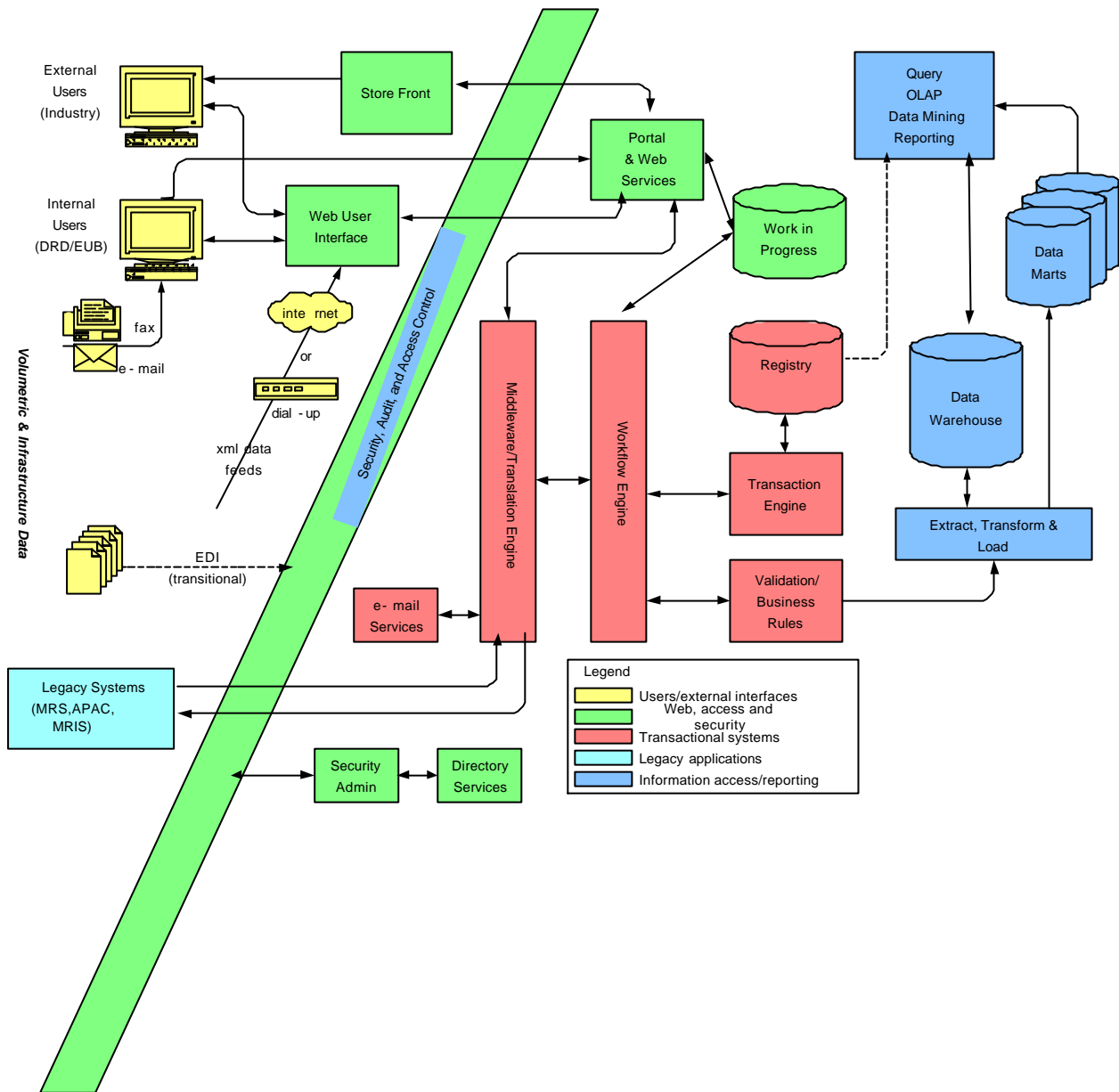
The goal is to demonstrate visually to stakeholders how the VIPIR system will look and operate.

As most people understand information visually, it is critical to be able to show users how the system will perform before it goes into production. DMR plans to do this through the lifecycle of the project and will show the enhancements from one prototype phase to the next.

This work also involves a talented group of companies that are working together with the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board and Department of Resource Development to deliver the VIPIR system.

DMR will work with Jawz Inc., which will be assisting in development of the security layer. ISMBC will provide operational support for the system for a one-year period. DMR is also working with Ptarmigan Energy Services and EFA Software (Prism) for their business expertise in Production Accounting systems.

Overview of Data Management



An overview of data flow in the VIPIR system, as envisaged by DMR Consulting Inc. in its proposal. (The final system architecture may be different from what is depicted here.) The left side shows how the submissions will be completed. The centre section shows how data will be handled and the top section demonstrates how data will be provided back to organizations in a timely manner.

NEW INDUSTRY MANAGER

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"My diverse background in the industry has touched on most of the functional areas involved with VIPIR," said Ross. "That helps me see the whole picture."

Ross will work out of the VIPIR office in Monenco Place in Calgary (801 - 6 Avenue SW). Phone:(403) 297-4411. Email: ross.weaver@gov.ab.ca.

He describes his role as having five main functions: communications with industry, training of industry, risk management, measurement of industry readiness, and change management.

"We're designing a great system and we have to ensure that industry knows about it and is properly trained for it. It's critical that this involves multiple stakeholders representing all the different segments of the oil and gas industry, pipelines and vendors who can provide related services."

This will involve a communications and training plan for industry, followed by an acceptance test plan and implementation plan.

"Besides measuring industry readiness and working with them on change management, we need to identify and act on any risks that could potentially bump the project off course," said Ross.

The Steering Committee and Advisory Group set out criteria for selection of the Industry Readiness Manager. The position was advertised through the CAPP website and in the marketplace.

THE VIPIR PROJECT IS AN INITIATIVE OF THE ALBERTA MINISTRY OF RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN COOPERATION WITH INDUSTRY PARTNERS.

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VIPIR Project Organizational Structure

