

process and adsorption units are in operation across the Middle East. From our offices in the Middle East, we serve customers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, as well as Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, and Oman. We also maintain two R&D centres in Dhahran, including one at the King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals.

Tell us more about your latest investments and efforts in R&D, technology and new product development.

Honeywell UOP invests heavily in research and development. We established a revolutionary new business called Connected Performance Services – or CPS – using the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) to run refineries by combining UOP's deep process knowledge with Honeywell's

software capabilities. The result is smarter plants that run better and are more able to avoid downtime. Also, we've announced the introduction of our new Unity™ line of hydroprocessing catalysts, which now includes a range of catalysts for hydrotreating. We also introduced the ISOALKY™ process, which uses ionic liquids instead of hydrofluoric or sulfuric acids to produce high-quality alkylate.

What are some of the key challenges facing refining and petrochemical producers that UOP is looking to solve through its value adding offerings?

With global demand for refined products rising by 1 to 1.5 million barrels per day, and demand for petrochemicals rising even faster, refiners need to add capacity and gain flexibility to produce whatever products

will generate the greatest profit. Our entire technology portfolio is designed to boost yields and provide that flexibility, to convert more of every barrel into the products that are most in demand – and doing it in a highly energy-efficient way that has the least environmental impact.

Honeywell UOP is an international supplier and licensor of process technology, catalysts, adsorbents, equipment, and consulting services to the petroleum refining, petrochemical, and gas processing industries. Honeywell UOP is part of Honeywell's Performance Materials and Technologies strategic business group, which also includes Honeywell Process Solutions, a pioneer in automation control, instrumentation and services for the oil and gas, refining, petrochemical, chemical and other industries.

AVEVA AND MICROSOFT TO DELIVER NEW TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOPS

AVEVA and Microsoft will deliver a series of workshops at the Microsoft Technology Centre in Dubai, showing the region's Oil & Gas leaders how software can power operational excellence through collaborative 3D visualization.

Microsoft's new Middle East and Africa centre of excellence for oil and gas in Dubai, drives digital transformation for the industry, a one-of-its-kind facility globally. The centre of excellence helps companies in the sector take advantage of the latest trends such as the Internet of Things (IIoT), advanced analytics, modern productivity and cloud computing.

According to the 2016 Upstream Oil and Gas Digital Trends Survey by Accenture and Microsoft, 80 per cent of upstream oil and gas companies plan to increase spending on digital technologies in order to help them drive leaner, smarter organizations.

"Digital transformation is top of mind for executives in the Oil and Gas industry, which is why this centre of excellence was built," said Omar Saleh, director for oil and



Delegates Get Hands-on with AVEVA Engage 3D Visualization Software In Dubai

gas at Microsoft, Middle East and Africa. "With AVEVA, we provide our customers with specialist knowledge and access to solutions that enable the creation of some of the world's most complex oil & gas plants, vessels and offshore facilities."

Workshop attendees can see how AVEVA ENGAGE puts immediate and simple access to information at their fingertips. It seamlessly connects engineering documents, models and data to an ultra-high definition 3D visualization of an asset on Microsoft Surface Hub, a powerful team collaboration device designed to advance

the way people work together naturally. Surface Hub encourages the multi-discipline consensus building and decision making needed when building and operating complex oil or gas facilities.

Delegates at the technology workshops learn how access to trusted asset information is critical to improving operational and incident-free performance. When engineers are provided with accurate, reliable, and regulatory compliant asset information, it results in efficient decision making, improved asset availability and increased safety.

"Throughout an asset's life cycle, accurate and relevant information is essential to decision making. AVEVA is redefining how, in oil and gas, companies can access and retrieve this information, using Office 365 to tear down the interdisciplinary boundaries," said Mohamad Awad, regional vice president for AVEVA. "In these workshops we will be able to show how this technology is helping our customers to cope with the increasing pressures of lean design, capital stewardship and operational reliability." 