

THE OIL UNIVERSITY NETWORK OF ARGENTINA

The enactment of Law No. 26741 opened the door to a new stage for the development of the oil and gas sector in Argentina by declaring that oil and gas self-sufficiency, exploration, exploitation, industrialization, transport and commercialization are matters of national public interest, as well as a primary objective for the Argentine Republic.

In this context, a new synergy has emerged among Argentina's Ministry of Education, YPF S.A., YPF Foundation and the Argentine universities oriented to education and research in the field of oil engineering. The Ministry of Education has launched a program called "La Universidad con YPF" (The University with YPF) in order to continue building a strategic alliance between the national university and the productive systems. This context has also encouraged the creation of new oil and gas-related academic offers, such as the degree in Oil Engineering offered by Arturo Jauretche National University, and a number of associate degrees offered by Jujuy National University, Patagonia Austral National University, Comahue National University and the National Technological University (UTN). Additionally, the Ministry of Education and YPF Foundation have created the so-called Oil University Network, together with the participation of public and private universities, with the aim of promoting and supporting the development of the national hydrocarbon industry. The creation of this network is oriented to building links and generating projects to exchange academic contributions and scientific research with a view to strengthening the education and training of professionals in the oil industry.

In this context, it is of utmost importance to strengthen the international connection with all actors that are relevant to the education of graduates and researchers in the oil and gas sector, and a clear-cut orientation toward the growing needs of the industry within Argentina's social and economic growth. In this regard, several Norwegian institutions have been identified, the experience of which is highly relevant to the development of the university-industry connection in Argentina.