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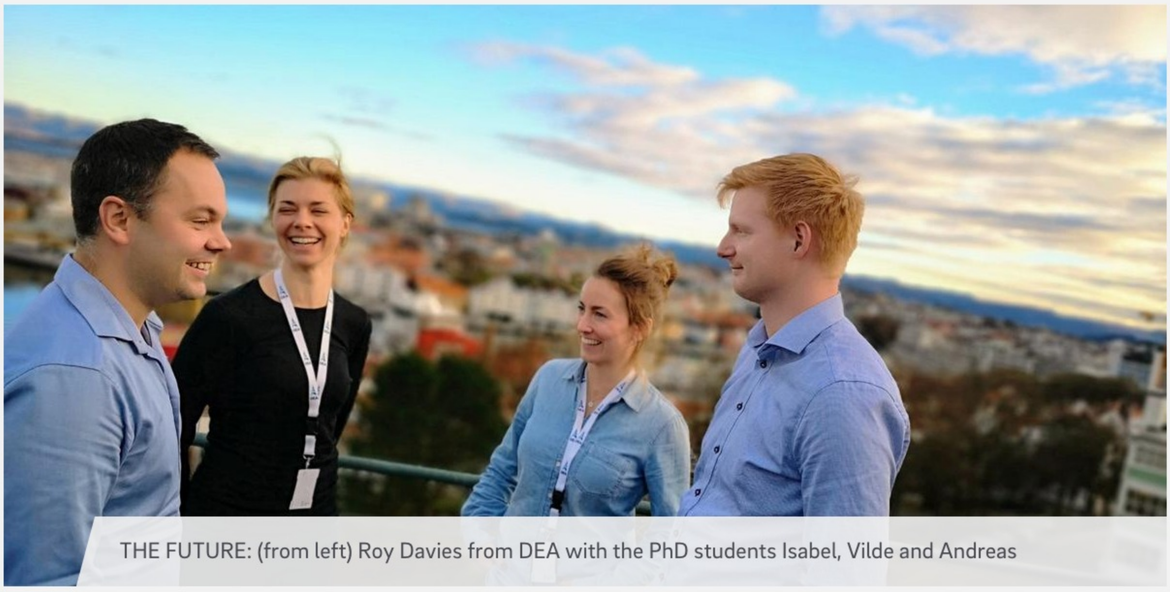
Securing geo-expertise



THE FUTURE: (from left) Roy Davies from DEA with the PhD students Isabel, Vilde and Andreas

DEA supports three PhD projects investigating NCS geology. Recently the students met up at the DEA Norway office to exchange ideas and analysis.

For the next three years, Andreas Hagset at the University of Tromsø, will study the potential for finding oil prone source rocks in the Cretaceous basins along the western margin of the Norwegian Continental Shelf.

Together with fellow students Vilde Dimmen and Isabel Edmundson from the University of Bergen, he is on a three-day visit to the DEA office in Stavanger - enjoying access to DEA subsurface data, technology and knowledge. “A great opportunity and an inspiration”, according to Andreas.

“Clearly, it is a great encouragement to have access to, and work alongside the DEA professionals. I’m still at an early phase of my research, but already I see a great potential for interesting findings”, he says. Vilde and Isabel nod, and point at the importance of strong collaboration between academia and industry.

“The industry perspective is necessary. It helps us to understand how it all works in practical terms, as well as strengthening our ability to prioritize, interpret and analyze the data”, Vilde says.

The DEA contact person, Roy Davies views the DEA PhD support program as a business opportunity and a win-win for both DEA and the students.

“We ensure that research carried out by the universities is relevant for us and the industry as a whole. At the same time, the students help us find solutions to key challenges by finding new approaches to analyzing the data. Also, we fulfill our social responsibility by helping to train the next generation of geoscience specialists”, he says.

According to Roy, the cooperation builds on more than just funding.

“Most people tend to think about money when they talk about supporting research – but the last point is equally important, as we can’t expect to just throw money over the fence and expect to see good results. This is why we put an effort into being a hands-on supporter of research by visiting the universities, and also having the students spend time with us in our office”, he explains.

The three PhD projects:

- Andreas: studying the potential for finding oil prone source rocks along the western margin of the Norwegian Shelf
- Vilde: studying how faults behave in carbonate rocks, and how they can be identified in seismic data
- Isabel: studying factors affecting and limiting seal capacity in the Barents Sea

Andreas’ and Isabel’s projects are fully funded by DEA, whereas Vilde has her own funding via a personal VISTA scholarship from the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters.