



Ahmed Alshaikh

Process Optimization Engineer Ahmed Alshaikh is part of Saudi Aramco's specialist development program. With 10 years of experience at Saudi Aramco, he was encouraged to gain experience with a leading company in its area of specialties in order to seek solutions to different corporate major challenges and complement his Aramco experience.

"KBC Advanced Technologies is a leading company in the area of process simulation software development, production planning and optimization for downstream oil & gas and petrochemical facilities," he says. "For that reason, I undertook an assignment at KBC Advanced Technologies focusing on the area of supply chain optimization."

Coordinated through Aramco Training Services Company (ATSC), Alshaikh was active in projects that included developing and running enterprise-wide hydrocarbon optimization models.

"The most interesting part of the assignment was developing refinery production planning optimization tools," he says. "These tools are used to drive clients to achieve maximum profit improvement by pointing out the most optimum decisions to run facilities in the short and long term. Similar models are developed and used at Saudi Aramco, so learning the best practices in development and use of these models can benefit Saudi Aramco downstream facilities and help uncover additional potential profit improvement opportunities. It will also improve the accuracy of production

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planning and the efficiency of the hydrocarbon planning work process."

Alshaikh's KBC Manager Eric Streit says, "Ahmed assisted on several projects where his skill with LP programming and use was put to use. His Aramco training has definitely prepared him for the type of work we have asked him to do. Ahmed has been a valuable addition to the team and assisted in modifying and rebuilding LP programs for our clients."

Alshaikh says seeing the work from "the other side of the fence" was a challenging, yet satisfying aspect of his assignment. "At Saudi Aramco, you are always on the client side, so it was very interesting to see how things look and run from the consultant side of the business," he notes. "I think that experience was an eye opener for me and will help me see things from a different angle when dealing with consultants in future Saudi Aramco projects."

There are nearly 150 Saudi Aramco professionals currently training at companies in North America. They are engaged on assignments in manufacturing, oil and gas, and electricity; in offices conducting financial and accounting activities; in security industries; in medical facilities; and in an array of other disciplines.

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