

Quantum Energy Partners Hires Its First CTO

Sebastian Gass has joined the energy-focused firm as part of a plan to make better use of data generated by its ventures



Quantum Energy Partners, which invests across all sectors of the energy industry, has hired its first chief technology officer as it as looks to incorporate more data into its investment process.

PHOTO: JESSICA LUTZ/REUTERS

By Luis Garcia

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Quantum Energy Partners for the first time has hired a chief technology officer as the private-equity firm looks to incorporate more data into its investment process.

CTO Sebastian Gass worked for the past 13 years at energy company Chevron Corp. , where he was general manager for technology and strategy. He began his career in California at German software giant SAP SE and worked at other software companies before joining Chevron.

At Quantum, he will oversee the buildup of a “digital ecosystem” designed to help the Houston-based energy-focused firm find new investment opportunities, said Wil VanLoh, Quantum’s chief executive.

“Quantum will use [the system] to run our entire business,” Mr. VanLoh said. “That’s everything from deal sourcing to all the tools that our technical team needs.”

Quantum is looking to better mine geological, drilling and other data that are publicly available or generated by the firm’s own activities.

The firm invests across all sectors of the energy industry, including oil-and-gas exploration and development, energy infrastructure, oil-field services and renewable energy. It manages more than \$17 billion in assets, ranking it among the largest private investment firms in the U.S. energy industry.

“It’s an incredibly data-intensive industry and therefore it lends itself to being able to drive down costs and drive up recoveries through the use of data-analytics tools,” Mr. VanLoh said.

In the early stages of shale drilling, nimble wildcatters that could act quickly dominated the scene, but as the industry matured and focused more on development, firms that can harness vast amounts of data will have the edge, according to Mr. VanLoh.

“The competitive advantage starts to shift back to the bigger companies,” he said.

In building out its data ecosystem, Quantum wants to replicate the approach adopted by a number of large energy companies that have incorporated data into their operations, including Chevron and EOG Resources Inc. , Mr. VanLoh said.

He added that Mr. Gass also will be responsible for the development of a set of digital analytics apps and other tools for Quantum’s portfolio companies.

“We [concluded] that we’ve got to build that capability in house for our portfolio companies because they don’t have the time or the expertise or the data to do it themselves,” Mr. VanLoh said.

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