



DrumBeat: February 18, 2007

Posted by [Leanan](#) on February 18, 2007 - 8:21am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

Oil facilities on [Google Earth](#)



A tip from Mike Hearn:

Google just released KML Search in Google Earth. It's pretty good for exploring the worlds oil industry and makes it a *lot* easier than it was before.

To play with it, install and run Google Earth, then zoom in on, say, Saudi Arabia so it fills your view. Now try a query like *gosp*, *oil* or *trans-arabian pipeline* to see some great pictures of cities in the desert or huge processing plants in Qatar. Or try *refinery* over the UK. Or *petronas platform* over Nigeria to see a small but ultra-hi res image of a desert oil well. Or *oil rig under construction* over Ireland.

These images have all been available for a while but now you can easily locate items of interest.

[US military oil pains](#)

Yes, the US military is completely addicted to oil. Unsurprisingly, its oil consumption for aircraft, ships, ground vehicles and facilities makes the Pentagon the single largest oil consumer in the world. By the way, according to the 2006 CIA World Factbook rankings there are only 35 countries (out of 210) in the world that consume more oil per day than the Pentagon.

An interesting point is that even though there are only a few data sources, how much oil the Pentagon really consumes is still kind of puzzle, at least to me.

[OPEC works to stabilize market despite easing of oil prices](#)

While we continue to hold an agnostic position on the "Peak Oil" philosophy, reports that the supermajors are increasing investment and seeing production decline does support their argument. Of course, some of this trend is due to the fact that the firms have been denied access to the best fields. Still, this does suggest that geopolitically safe and accessible oil is becoming difficult to acquire.

[Piping up for North Sea oil](#)

Falling investment levels, high taxes and rising costs threaten the viability of an oil-producing region which is just over halfway through its expected lifetime.

[Is Houston smarter than Detroit? Big Oil versus Big Auto \(and a simple solution for global warming\)](#)

US car makers and the US oil industry appear to be speeding in opposite directions in what may seem like a complete paradox. Just as companies like Chevron, Exxon and Shell announce the highest profits of any company in history, Chrysler, Ford and General Motors sales are in free fall. Is the oil industry in Houston is smarter than the car industry in Detroit?

[Baltic Sea Gas Pipeline Meets European Resistance](#)

Resistance to a planned Russian gas pipeline in the Baltic Sea is growing in Europe. Sweden is especially uneasy about the project. Besides environmental concerns, some Swedish politicians fear it may be used for spying.

[Indian officials to visit Islamabad for Iran pipeline talks](#)

Indian oil ministry officials will travel to Islamabad next week to discuss constructing a long-awaited multi-billion dollar gas pipeline from Iran through Pakistan, an official said.

[Hostage takers release U.S. oil worker](#)

Hostage takers in Nigeria's restive oil region have released an American oil worker captive, police said Sunday.

[Tensions high in Mediterranean over oil field](#)

Warnings and threats backed by gunboat diplomacy have electrified the eastern Mediterranean region, where news of a possible major oil and natural gas field has created visions of unexpected wealth.

[Wild grass could hold key to clean fuels of the future](#)

Miscanthus, a perennial grass native to subtropical and tropical regions of Africa and southern Asia, was the ideal plant for producing ethanol at a lower cost than corn, currently the most widespread source of the fuel.

[Frustration over delays on clean coal](#)

The UK Offshore Operators Association (UKOOA) has joined calls for the government to stop dragging its feet over a technology that a number of industry experts say could significantly affect climate change and extend the productive life of the North Sea.

['Green energy' project gives Swiss the shakes](#)

Swiss prosecutors are investigating a green energy project after it was revealed that it caused earthquakes.

[January is Warmest on Record](#)

The average global temperature last month was the highest for any January on record, according to NOAA, climbing to 55.13 degrees Fahrenheit, which is 1.53 degrees warmer than the 20th-century average.

[Philanthropist's latest beneficiary: the environment](#)

"There will always be people who will hold onto the old ways of doing things, but with global warming and with peak oil, the fastest-growing trends in construction are energy-efficient homes, for obvious reasons," Chandler said. "We can't keep creating big boxes to heat and air-condition. Small houses are going to become more attractive to buyers,

and big houses are going to have to become more energy-efficient."

[AAAS president urges swift action to build a sustainable future](#)

Challenges such as poverty, climate change and nuclear proliferation pose global risks that require scientists and engineers to join with political and business leaders in a concerted search for solutions, AAAS President John P. Holdren said Thursday.

[Who are we and where are we going?](#)

In the coming permanent world energy crisis, North Dakota is going to be one North American locus of intense industrial activity. We have abundant lignite coal reserves, and what is regarded as plenty of water to process that coal. That means liquefaction and gasification, and more coal-fired power generation plants.

[Energy: healthcare's preconditional crisis](#)

Modern healthcare is dependent upon large inputs of energy as well as an array of products derived from petroleum. Nevertheless it is silent on the threats posed by the end of the fossil fuel era, colloquially know as "peak oil."

[Investor group unveils climate blacklist](#)

The move by Ceres, a group of state pension funds, environmental and religious groups with more than \$200bn in assets, highlights a rise in investor and political demands on business to do more to deal with environmental problems.



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