

GEOSCIENTIST TO PLANNING & STRATEGY ANALYST

Jonathan Cook

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Background: Education and Career History

- MSci Geoscience (Royal Holloway, University of London)
- MSc Petroleum Geoscience (Imperial College London)
- Hess Corporation, Houston, Denmark, London, Russia (2008 – 2013)
- E.ON E&P London, Algeria, Norway (2013-2016)
- Premier Oil Plc (2016 – Present)

- E.ON Strategic review announced Nov 2014, last day in E.ON June 2016
 - E.ON E&P sold to Premier Oil with very few roles transferring across, with almost all moving to Aberdeen.
 - Personal circumstances required staying in London.

Preparation: What professions are out there?

- Research
 - Reached out to network (Old university/industry connections)
 - Searched LinkedIn for those with similar qualifications
 - Many corporations put staff bios on their websites.
- Direct approach via email/LinkedIn
 - Met multiple people and asked what qualifications/experience would be required to do their role.
- How to address skill gap
 - Identified which skills could be gained quickly vs those that required more formal training (online vs further formal study).
 - Set aside time to learn new skills.
 - Created multiple plans (and deadlines to achieve them).

Evaluating my skillset

- What are my actual underlying skills?
 - Data analysis
 - Modelling
 - Risk analysis
 - Presentation of complex problems & solutions
- Tailoring my experience for the relevant crowd
 - Remove O&G terminology from applications
 - Pattern recognition – employers will feel more at ease if they feel they recognise what you are
 - Emphasised the broader view point of my experience, i.e. commercial, business development, etc.
- Other skills
 - Software, coding, languages, etc.

Types of roles considered

- **Bank / Private Equity / Funds**
 - A&D / M&A Associate
 - Research Associate
 - Debt Originator
- **Consultancy**
 - Consultant (WoodMac, McKinsey, etc.)
 - Commercial Analyst (io oil & gas consulting, etc.)
- **Analysts**
 - Oil Analyst (S&P Platts, etc.)
 - Planning/Strategy Analyst (Premier, NewAge)
- **Management Consultancy**

Challenges

- **Job Search: Applied for multiple roles**
 - Response was varied (progressed some a long way vs no response from some)
- **Convincing an employer of my skillset/commitment**
 - Difficult in interview to convey experience without being technical.
 - Fear that only looking for a safe port in a storm.
 - Did find that those with a technical background were more conducive.
- **New Role: Planning Analyst**
 - Felt like was thrown in the “deep-end”.
 - Quick ramp up – Maths is maths (plus the internet is very helpful).

“If somebody offers you an amazing opportunity but you are not sure you can do it, say yes – then learn how to do it later!” – Richard Branson

New Role: Planning & Strategy Analyst

- **Broad range of responsibility**
 - Maintaining Corporate Model
 - Providing interface with Premier Debt holders
- **Involved in significant activity**
 - Worked in a small team modelling Premier Debt refinancing
 - Identified asset disposal (circa \$200m)
- **Potential Springboard**
 - Has broadened by experience and understanding of E&P drivers
 - Would be complimentary if I ever decide to transition back into a technical role.

THANK YOU

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