

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DRILLING CONTRACTORS



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IADC ART Control Motions & Software Interface Subcommittee Meeting
IADC Advanced Rig Technology Committee
8:30 am, Tuesday, 19 May 2009
IADC – Houston, TX

Attendees:

Mike Killalea, IADC
Svein Ove Aanesland, National Oilwell Varco
David Cardellini, National Oilwell Varco
John Hoeflich, National Oilwell Varco
Terry Loftis, Transocean Offshore Deepwater Drilling, Inc.
Zain Master, Caterpillar Inc.
David Moran, Smith International
Allen Prescott, DNV IT Global Services

Minutes:

Software Interface Subcommittee Vice Chairman Zain Master opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Everybody introduced themselves, as some new attendees were present.

1. Zain Master reviewed the IADC antitrust policy.
2. Subcommittee merger plans were discussed. Going forward, the Software Interface Subcommittee led by Zain Master is now merged with the Control Motions Subcommittee, previously chaired by Svein Ove Aanesland. The new vice chairman of the combined SI/CM Subcommittee is John Hoeflich. Appreciation was expressed to Zain and Svein Ove for their leadership.
3. Members of the Control Motions Subcommittee were not in attendance except for Svein Ove Aanesland. The Control Motions Analysis has been submitted. NOV, Aker Solutions, TTS Sense and Hitec Products have provided input. Further discussion was deferred to the June meeting of the merged committee.
 - a. Action: Mike Killalea has indicated he can try to provide contacts for equipment vendors IDM, Omron, Canrig, Bentec, LTI and Huisman.
4. The Rig Technology List was discussed. John Hoeflich clarified the intent of NOV to provide a summary list of the different types of integrated control systems installed, as opposed to a detailed list of control systems for all rigs.
 - a. Action: John Hoeflich to distribute a preliminary summary list to subcommittee for review prior to the June meeting.

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5. The Rig Communication Protocol List distributed by John Hoeflich was reviewed. Protocol information was updated. Equipment vendors and their systems will be added to the matrix, including drilling control systems, subsea controls and dynamic positioning systems.
 - a. Action: John Hoeflich to incorporate feedback and distribute Revision 2 for review prior to the June meeting.
 - b. Action: Terry Loftis to help identify and canvas subsea and DP suppliers for input.
6. Allen Prescott presented an overview of Recommended Practice DNV-RP-D201, "Integrated Software Dependent Systems." There was some disagreement from the committee on the basic premise that software is not ready or debugged when equipment is delivered or commissioned – the presentation paints an overly grim picture. The value of having a recommended practice that can be referenced in project specifications was noted. Appreciation for the information was expressed. Direct feedback to DNV or endorsement is beyond the scope of the committee.
7. The topic of Obsolescence was continued from the previous meeting. Terry Loftis stated that obsolete controls and software has become a major concern and expense for rig owners. Examples are the PLC's, computers, servers and operating systems such as Windows NT. Technology vendor objectives to drive revenue stream are in conflict with technology consumer needs to avoid risk and cost of upgrades. Previous generation rig systems are typically lasting about 10 years before obsolescence becomes a serious problem, but the rigs themselves are typically designed for at least a 20 year life. Drilling contractors are looking for help from the industry to bridge this gap as we go forward. One possible solution might be to move away from serial communication devices to standardize on Ethernet networks.
 - a. Action: At next meeting, discuss and identify key areas causing biggest problems with obsolescence.
8. The committee would benefit from increased participation from drilling contractors. Mike Killalea and Zain Master have worked on updating an invitation letter and contact list.
 - a. Action: Mike and Zain – distribute letter for review prior to June meeting.
9. The meeting ran over the allotted time, therefore previous committee topics were deferred to future meetings:
 - a. Version Control - Quick fixes are performed to software during commissioning that aren't recorded or communicated back to the vendor/dc/customer.
 - b. Major Interface issue on rig seen between Power Management System, Vessel Management System and Drilling Control System (drawworks, top drive, mud pumps, etc).
 - c. Deliverable for Committee is to recommend a list of "Best Practices" that are to be performed to smoothly interface those systems.
10. The next meeting was tentatively set for Tuesday, June 9, but due to scheduling conflicts at IADC, it is now scheduled for **Tuesday, June 16, at 8:30 am** at IADC headquarters, located at 10370 Richmond Ave, Suite 760, Houston, TX 77042 USA. Webinar attendance will also be available. Register for the meeting at http://www.iadc.org/committees/advanced_rig_technology/meetings.htm
11. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.