Sedco Forex Rig 8 completes 10 years in Oman without an LTA

John Frankish, Sedco Forex

SEDSCO FOREX RIG 8 recently completed 10 years without a lost-time accident. The rig was designed and built specifically to work in the deserts of Oman. The 1,000-hp rig comprises a minimum number of loads which, coupled with an innovative design, allow it to move in-field in as little as 6 hours. Currently, 70% of the crew are Omani nationals.

Following construction, Rig 8 spudded its first well with Petroleum Development Oman on 24 July 1989 at Jawdah in the south of Oman. During a contractual period of 6 years, the rig drilled 116 wells for a total of 150,000 m whilst moving 2,740 km between wells. The rig suffered no LTI’s during this period to the end of contract in June 1995.

In September 1995, the rig went to work for Occidental of Oman for 6 months, drilling 6 wells, again without an LTI.

From April 1996 to date, Rig 8 has again been under contract with PDO. A further 110,000 m have been drilled over 71 wells whilst moving 2,400 km. The rig achieved the significant milestone of 10 years work without an LTA in October 1999.

Whilst there is no doubt that the continuity of crew and geographical location has played an important part in achieving this record, the crew and client team work and commitment to HSE has been second to none—without the latter, the record could never have been achieved.

The HSE tools instrumental in helping the crew achieve this record have been the Sedco Forex HSE training systems, the DuPont STOP system and the commitment of all supervisors to spend 15 minutes every day to improve safety.

This underscores our belief that a viable, comprehensive QHSE management system integrated into our operations is indeed a best business practice.