



Deutag works a year with no LTI on Chirag, gets Smedvig's UK platform work

DEUTAG DRILLING IN October celebrated one year without a lost-time incident on the Chirag platform. At the time of the achievement, Deutag had recently completed its 8th well for its client, the **Azerbaijan International Operating Company (AIOC)**.

Deutag has operated its T-105 rig on Chirag since 1997.

Deutag Country Manager **Brendon O'Toole** credited the superb performance to the excellent teamwork and integration of the Deutag & AIOC multinational workforce with their national Azeri counterparts.

He also praised the strong support Deutag had received from AIOC.

"As the first western contractor to enter the Caspian drilling arena, Deutag is proud to achieve this milestone in safety and performance and will continue with confidence to lead future Caspian regional activity in the same professional manner," Mr O'Toole remarked. "Deutag is accustomed to taking the initiative to link safety and performance in all its operations.

"We express our gratitude to our valued clients for their undaunted support of our safety programs and to all our employees for their commitment to execute operations in a highly professional manner reflective of the company culture," he added.

Mr O'Toole explained that the company introduced and executed the STOP program onboard Chirag. That program, he said, has proved to be a principal tool for effective safety management.

"The safety goal was reached by effectively managing the project and through the introduction of vast experience accredited from the company's North Sea operations," Mr O'Toole said.



Team effort: Teamwork between Deutag's multinational and Azeri workforce on the Chirag platform in the Caspian Sea (inset), along with support from the operator, AIOC, contributed to the company's milestone one year without a lost-time incident, the company says.

"Deutag is renowned for its reliability for delivery of high quality services, pioneering spirit and leading position in application of new technology."

Deutag has implemented an aggressive nationalization program in the Caspian. This program is on schedule, Mr O'Toole said, with Azeri drillers taking responsibility for Chirag drilling operations.

"Deutag is committed to the training and the development of local employees in all of their worldwide operations," he said. "Success of the nationalization program has been attributed to many factors, including highly motivated expat employees at the rigsite, English language training and exposure to employees to Deutag's European operations."

DEUTAG SMEDVIG DEAL

In other Deutag news, the company announced in November that it had acquired **Smedvig's** platform drilling activities in the UK sector of the North Sea, the largest takeover in Deutag's



history. The acquisition, described as friendly, will shift responsibility to Deutag for platform drilling contracts on 6 fixed installations, and production drilling contracts on 2 fixed installations and 1 mobile production unit, all in the UK sector, plus a production assistance contract in the Caspian Sea.

The agreement also includes production engineering services (**Altra Consultants**) and drilling engineering services (**Prodrill Engineering**).

The acquisition adds revenue of around 150 million Deutsche Marks (DEM; US\$88.4 million) to Deutag Drilling's own revenues last year of around 900 million DEM (US\$530 million), the Bad Bentheim, Germany-based drilling contractor said.

Noted Deutag Chairman/CEO **Werner B Wilmes**, "Deutag Drilling is a big company in its field, and has always been a truly international organization. Our objectives are nothing less than international market leadership, and these acquisitions significantly increase our international presence.

"We are delighted to welcome these very well-run and productive Smedvig operations into the Deutag Drilling family, and we are confident that they will strengthen our base for further leaps into the future," Mr Wilmes added. ■



Recognizing safety: As part of an annual safety program, Scandrill Toolpusher Denver Nicholas won a pickup truck. The pickup is the grand prize in a drawing that is open only to employees who have worked a year without an LTA. From left, VP-Human Resources Paul Mosvold, Operations Manager Mike Foster, Drilling Superintendent John Irby, Mr Nicholas, VP-Operations Marty DuBroc, and President Martin Mosvold. This year, a record 85 employees qualified for the grand prize drawing.

Scandrill toolpusher wins in safety contest

AS PART OF Scandrill's annual safety program, Toolpusher **Denver Nicholas** of Ben Wheeler, Texas, won a pickup truck. The pickup is the grand prize in a drawing that is open only to employees who have worked a year without an LTA. This year, a record 85 employees were eligible for the grand prize.

As part of its program, Scandrill awards

Saga renews contract for Saipem semi Scarabeo 5

SAGA PETROLEUM HAS re-newed its contract for **Saipem's** 4th-generation semisubmersible Scara-beo 5, according to Milan-based Saipem.

The contract is valued at US\$90 million and will run through November 2000. Under the terms of the agreement, the semi will conduct drilling and well-completion operations in the Norwegian sector of the Continental Shelf, Saipem said.

The semi is also scheduled to undertake deep-water operations in the North Sea during 1999. ■

R&B Falcon, Vastar ink deal for RBS8D semi

VASTAR AND R&B Falcon have signed a 3-year extendable contract for the new-generation newbuild DP semi RBS8D. The dayrate is \$199,950, and the contract contains 5 one-year options. Vastar can extend the term to 5 years with the dayrate between \$189,200 and \$199,200. The actual dayrate will depend on the date of extension. ■

safety certificates each month to employees who work without an LTA. It also pays a "bottomhole bonus" to employees who complete wells and stay with the rig at least 2 weeks into the following well.

Mr Nicholas plans to give the pickup to his youngest daughter as a high-school graduation gift. ■

Parker wins big-rig contract

Parker Drilling Co recently announced that it had won a 3-year contract with **Burlington Resources** to use Parker's ultra-deep Rig 201. The 4,000-hp unit will go to work in the Madden Deep Unit of Wyoming's Wind River Basin, Parker said, where it will drill to estimated depths of 25,000 ft.

"This is an important, high-profile job for Parker and an extremely important natural-gas development project for



Next time you're in Abu Dhabi: Stop in at Abu Dhabi National Drilling Co's new digs. AD NDC's impressive new 20-story headquarters are on Salam St in the city's central district.

The drill pipe that came in from the cold

LIKE THE "SPY Who Came in from the Cold", a relic of the Cold War has retired at Global Marine's Houston headquarters—the box and pin from the drill pipe reportedly used by the US government to salvage a Soviet submarine from the ocean floor during the 1970s. The pipe string, made of gun-barrel steel with 150 Ksi yield, could lift 4,250 short tons at 17,000 ft, the depth at which it was used, and 8,500 short tons at 1,000 ft. The pipe weighs some 20,000 lb per joint. ■



Together, the 579 joints measured 17,370 ft and weighed 4,700 short tons. The pipe wall is some 4 3/4 in. thick through the body, with ODs of 28 in. at the joint and 15 1/2 in. through the body. The pipe was a one-piece forging with a trepanned bore. ■