



Rowan expands Tarzan jackup program

ROWAN COMPANIES will build three more Tarzan Class jackups. The first unit, the Scooter Yeargain, is under construction at Rowan's LeTourneau yard in Vicksburg, Miss, with delivery set for mid-2004. The additional Tarzan class rigs are scheduled for delivery by year-end 2006 at an aggregate cost of approximately \$300 million.

The Tarzan Class rig was developed in response to anticipated greater emphasis on deep drilling on the US Gulf shelf resulting from deep gas royalty incentives by the US Minerals Management Service (MMS). The rig is designed to drill wells in the 15,000-30,000 ft depth range in up to 250 ft of water. ■

Transocean to spin off shallow GOM rigs

TRANSOCEAN PLANS to divest its Gulf of Mexico shallow water and inland water business segment as a separate publicly traded company via an initial public offering (IPO). The company hopes to complete the IPO by late this year or early 2003. The business segment consists primarily of Transocean's US Gulf jackup and inland water drill barge operations and also includes the company's drilling operations in Trinidad and Venezuela that were

acquired following the merger with **R&B Falcon** in 2001. The rigs include 28 jackups, three submersible rigs 31 inland water drill barges, a platform rig and nine land rigs in Venezuela.

Jan Rask joined Transocean to become the president and CEO of the new entity. Mr Rask was previously president and CEO of **Marine Drilling Co** from 1996-2001 and president and CEO of **Arethusa** from 1993-1996. ■

Atwood wins contracts

ATWOOD OCEANICS' semisubmersible Atwood Southern Cross was awarded a one-well contract by **Oil Fields Ltd** to drill off Israel and a two-well contract plus one well option awarded by **Agip** to drill off the coasts of Sicily and Calabria. The dayrate for the first contract is \$60,000, with estimated drilling of 30 days. Dayrate for the Agip contract is also \$60,000, with that work estimated to take 60-90 days. Agip will pay rig mobilization costs from Israel to Sicily plus \$550,000 for upgrades. ■

TFE hires KCA Deutag

KCA DEUTAG won a two-year contract for well intervention operations and care and maintenance for the Dunbar platform from **TotalFinaElf Exploration**. The contract has potential options to extend by another five years. Work under the contract began in August. ■

New contract for Smedvig

SMEDVIG RECEIVED a contract from **Britannia Operator Ltd** for the semisubmersible West Alpha covering the drilling of a technically complex production well on the Britannia field in the UK North Sea. The drilling period is estimated at 100 days. The contract value is approximately \$10 million. Start up of the project is scheduled for late November. ■

ENSCO finishes Chiles buy

ENSCO INTERNATIONAL completed the acquisition of Chiles Offshore in early August, resulting in a combined fleet of 56 offshore rigs including 43 premium jackups and 28 oilfield support vessels. The former Chiles rigs have been renamed as follows:

ENSCO 74 (formerly Chiles Columbus); ENSCO 75 (Chiles Magellan); ENSCO 76 (Chiles Coronado); ENSCO 104 (Chiles Discovery) and ENSCO 105 (Chiles Galileo). ■

Pride awarded contracts

PRIDE INTERNATIONAL received a one-year contract plus two one-year options from **Agip Kazakhstan North Caspian Operating Co** for Pride's 3,000 HP Rig 319. The rig is being modified to work on an artificial island in the Caspian Sea. Mobilization is expected during the third quarter 2002 with operations to begin in the second quarter 2003.

Pride also received a one-year contract from **Dominion Exploration & Production** for Rig 1503 for drilling operations on the Devil's Tower spar in the Gulf of Mexico. The rig will be upgraded from 1,000-1,500 hp. Total contract value, including modifications is approximately \$11 million. The contract is expected to begin in the second quarter 2003.

Pride was also awarded additional **Pemex** contracts for two Gulf of Mexico jackups, the Pride Wisconsin and Pride California, for an aggregate 1,641 days and a total contract value in excess of \$60 million.

Also, the semisubmersible Pride South Seas and jackups Pride Mississippi and Pride Oklahoma received contracts from Pemex. The Pride South Seas is contracted for 958 days with a total value of about \$57 million. The jackups are contracted for an aggregate of 1,997 days with a value of approximately \$78 million. With these latest contracts, Pride will have seven jackups, one semisubmersible and two platform rigs working offshore Mexico. ■

Pioneer adds 10th rig

PIONEER DRILLING is purchasing an Oilwell 840E 1,500 HP diesel electric rig from **Drilling Structures International** for approximately \$5.5 million. The rig, rated to 18,000 ft, will primarily comprise new equipment, with some components refurbished to like-new condition. The mast and substructure are a new DSI/Pioneer design developed to move and rig up quickly without sacrificing stability to handle the 750,000 lb hookload capacity. The rig has a multi-well contract scheduled to begin in September 2002. ■