THE SPE/IADC Underbalanced Technology Conference and Exhibition set for 11-12 Oct in The Woodlands, Texas, Successful Underbalanced Operations Demand Unification of Petroleum Disciplines, promises to leave the attendees with the latest information about the technologies, methods and experiences of this important emerging technology. The conference is sponsored by Signa Engineering Corporation.

Rick Stone, Signa Engineering Corporation and Program Chairman, and Mike Dubose, Rowan Drilling, and Chairman of the IADC UBO Committee, will open the conference at 8 am.

The first session, Reservoir Case Studies, begins at 8:30 with session chairmen David A Roseland, Signa Engineering, and Dale Wong, Nasivada Resources.

The first presentation is Underbalanced Drilling in Canada: Tracking the Long-Term Performance of Underbalanced Drilling Projects in Canada by D W Kimery, M McCaffrey, Weatherford Canada.

This is followed by Underbalanced Drilling of Fractured Carbonates in Northern Thailand Overcomes Conventional Drilling Problems and Leads to a Major Gas Discovery by R H Pinkstone, W S McMillan and R A Doll, Halliburton Energy Services; A Timms, Amerada Hess Ltd; H de Vries, Amerada Hess Corp.

The second concurrent session beginning at 10:30 is Managed Pressure Drilling chaired by Oliver D Coker, ConocoPhillips, and Johan Eck-Olsen with Statoil. The first presentation is MPD—Uniquely Applicable to Methane Hydrate Drilling by Don Hannegan and R J Todd with Weatherford International Ltd; D M Pritchard, Successful Energy Practices International; and B Jonasson with Integrated Ocean Drilling Program.

G H Medley and R Stone with Signa Engineering will make the next presentation, Mud Cap Drilling When? Techniques for Determining When to Switch From Conventional to Underbalanced Drilling.

The final presentation is Well Control Problems in Deeper Waters by B Fossli with Ocean Riser Systems A/S.

PANEL SESSION

After lunch comes the conference’s first panel session (1:30-3:00) UBO and the Reservoir: Unifying Petroleum Disciplines. The panel is moderated by Jonny Gent, BP, with panelists Celso Branco, Petrobras; Paul Comrie, Amerada Hess; and Richard Medeiros, Petroleum Development Oman.

Panelists will present how they look at UBO for their reservoir from the point of view of where they are in their project, how they view UBO’s impact on their asset, their experience with it, issues and concerns and future expectations. The panel will identify issues that tend to either facilitate or impede the implementation of UBO and to determine whether these issues change with experience.

Following the panel, two concurrent sessions will be held, Reservoir II, and Management.

Reservoir II is chaired by Sara Shayegi, Halliburton Energy Services; and Robert G Davis, Signa Engineering. The first of four presentations during the session is Enhancement Well Productivity—Investigating the Feasibility of UBD for Minimizing Formation Damage in Naturally Fractured Carbonate Reservoirs by S Salimi and M Golan, Norwegian University of Science & Technology; and K I Andersen with Statoil.

This will be followed by Reduction of Wellbore Effects on Gas Inflow Evaluation Under Underbalanced Conditions by O J Aremu and S O Osisanya with the University of Oklahoma. The third presentation is Underbalanced Drilling for Production Enhancement in the Rasau Oil Field, Brunei by W S McMillan, Halliburton Energy Services; M W Sarssam, PDO; R L Peterson and M J Ward, Brunei Shell Petroleum; and D Elliot, Shell.

The final presentation of Reservoir II is Underbalanced Drilling as a Tool for Optimized Drilling and Completion Contingency in Fractured Carbonate Reservoirs by J Abdollahi, I M Carlsen and S Mjaaland, Sintef Petroleum Research; and P Skalle, Norwegian University of Science & Technology.

The Management session is chaired by Fred Curtis, Halliburton Energy Services, and Keith Kaase, Varco International. Four presentations are also included during this session, the first of which is Challenges in Implementing UBO Technology by Johan Eck-Olsen and A E Vollen, Statoil; and T Tennessee with Halliburton.

The last presentation is The Relationship Between Petroleum Economics and Risk Analysis: A New Integrated Approach for Project Management by D W Lewis, Halliburton Energy Services; V Guerrero, Warrior Technologies; S Saeed, Halliburton Energy Services; and M F Marcon, InControl Technologies Inc.

The conference continues Tuesday, 12 October at 8:00 am with Drilling Case Studies chaired by Philip Frink, Blade Energy Partners, and Ian Davidson, Shell International E&P.

The first presentation is HSE Training, Implementation, and Production Results for a Long-Term Underbalanced Coiled-Tubing Multilateral Drilling Project by J P Knight and R J Pickles, Blade Energy Partners; and B E Smith and C Leslie, BP.

Utilization of Underbalanced Drilling Techniques to Exploit a Low-Pressure Reservoir in Indonesia by P R Brand, P Savage and R J Pickles with Blade Energy Partners, follows that paper.

The next presentation is Drilling Underbalanced in Hassi Messaoud by D D Moore, Signa Engineering; and J R Chopty with Weatherford.

The final presentation of the session is A Safe Approach to Underbalanced Drilling in an H2S Producing Field Leads to Operational Success and Productivity Improvement by A Coy and R.M. Gorniak, Weatherford International; and D R Hall and M R Vezza, Marathon Oil.

Following a coffee break, the Modeling session, chaired by Steven Nas, Peer-Group International Ltd and Robert Urbanowski, Grey Wolf Drilling, will feature three presentations.

The first is Methodology for Manipulation of Wellhead Pressure Control for the Purpose of Recovering Gas To Process in Underbalanced Drilling Applications by R A Graham, Northland Energy Services; and M S Culen, Precision Drilling Corp.

Next up is Bottomhole Pressure Control During Pipe Connection in Gas-Dominant Wells by E H Vefring, Rogaland Research Centre; G H Nygaard, S Mylvaganam, Telemark U College; R J Lorentzen, G Naevdal and K K Fjelde, RF Rogaland Research; S Shayegi, I C Gil and S Saeed, Halliburton Energy Services, will present Advanced Wellbore Hydraulic Methodologies for Underbalanced Application.

PANEL SESSION

The conference’s second panel session begins at 1:30 following lunch. The topic is Modeling—What’s the Point? John Boyle, Weatherford, moderates panelists Patrick Brand, Blade Energy Partners; Michael Golan, University of Trondheim; Antonio C Lage, Petrobras; Sara Shayegi, Halliburton Energy Services; and Jerome Schubert, Texas A&M University.

HSE and Well Design is the conference’s final session and begins at 3:30. It is chaired by Johan Eck-Olsen, Statoil, and Tim Tonnesen, Halliburton Co.

The first presentation is Risk-Based Decision Support for Planning of an Underbalanced Drilling Operation by T Nilsen, Statoil; and O Arild, RF-Rogaland Research.

This will be followed by Technical Feasibility and Applicability of a Centric Jet Pump in Underbalanced Drilling by P V Suryanarayana and A K Hasan, Blade Energy Partners; and W J Hughes, SunStone Energy.

The third presentation will be Use of Dynamic Modeling in Preparations for the Gullfaks C-5A Well by R Rommetveit, Sintef Petroleum Research; K K Fjelde, RF-Rogaland Research; and Johan Eck-Olsen, Statoil.

The conference’s final presentation will be Well Completions Techniques and Methodologies for Maintaining Underbalanced Conditions Throughout Initial and Subsequent Well Interventions by T T W Cavender and H L Restarick, Halliburton Energy Services.