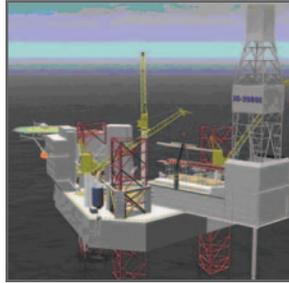


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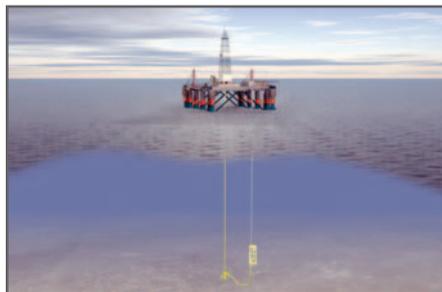
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Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,

Thanks for your editorial on deep land drilling (July/August 2006, Page 3).

While deep sea drilling has gained momentum, deep land drilling has not been taken seriously. The obvious reasons might be problems of land acquisition, economics and the environment.

Logistics in some parts of the world for drilling on land is a challenging task.

As for H₂S concerns, the question is: Are we prepared to tackle an emergency due to release of large quantities of sour gas from deep land, especially in an area where the rig is surrounded by population? There hasn't been much development in investing in technology related to deep sour environments as pointed out by an Austrian engineer.

Drilling into deep sour environments will require new technologies, especially more efficient anti-corrosion tools and sour gas detection systems, and of course personnel training.

With numerous applications related to H₂S, it would be worthwhile to invest in deep land drilling programs. The best way is to have participation from different oil companies

Deep resources, especially in northeast India, still remain to be explored.

Regarding the article related to Weatherford's casing drilling technology, which I have worked with in Southeast Asia, it's a good technology saving valuable rig time.

But what about the safety considerations? How are we going to tackle shallow gas emergencies when the well is spudded by casing?

Thanks once again for a good editorial for every professional to ponder over.

Best regards,

Vishwas B Joshi, India

DRILLING CONTRACTOR wants to hear from you!

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COVER

The tools of our trade — rigs and equipment — continue to evolve to meet a changing industry that's seeing record activity even as it strives for an injury-free workplace and to improve production. Turn to Page 18 for our special section on drilling equipment. Cover photo of the Rig T-208 courtesy of KCA DEUTAG.