



# DRILL BITS



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## IADC North Sea Chapter donates £4,000 to charities

**T**he IADC North Sea Chapter has made a £2000 donation to **CHILDREN 1ST**, one of Scotland's leading child welfare charities.

The money was raised through personal donations by attendees at the chapter's annual Safety Awards ceremony, held on 12 May in Aberdeen. The charity was 1 of 2 chosen by IADC North Sea Chapter chairman, **Doug Halkett** of **Transocean**, who presented the check.

**Seona Shand**, regional manager for **CHILDREN 1ST**, accepted the donation. "I am delighted that the IADC



IADC North Sea Chapter chairman **Doug Halkett** (right) of **Transocean** presents a £2,000 check to **CHILDREN 1ST** regional manager **Seona Shand**.

North Sea Chapter has decided to support **CHILDREN 1ST** by donating

£2000. We are providing more services for children than ever before across Scotland, and donations such as this are vital to ensure that we can continue to help those children who need us," she said.

**CHILDREN 1ST** helps children and families in the North and across Scotland.

The **Oil Chaplaincy Trust** was the other beneficiary of this charity collection, also receiving £2,000 to support its work with local families.

For more information, please contact North Sea Chapter office administrator **Val Hood** at [val.hood@iadc.org](mailto:val.hood@iadc.org).

## Australia holds the line on regulatory fees

**A**ustralia's **Department of Industry Tourism and Resources** has said it is too early for reallocation of the financial levies collected to support the budget of the **National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority** (NOPSA). Another review will be made in 2 years, the government concluded.

This "Review of Cost Recovery Arrangements" follows the first anniversary of NOPSA's establishment and responds to, among others, IADC's objections to the levies allocation. IADC asserts that producers should pick up a much larger share because they derive the greatest value from offshore oil and gas resources.

The review acknowledged that MODUs don't contain hydrocarbons and therefore are less risky. However, it also noted that MODUs carry their own hazardous activi-

ties, such as the potential to drill into unknown hydrocarbon reserves, stop/start operations and manual handling/lifting operations. The government decided there is currently insufficient data to judge the appropriateness of current facility ratings.

NOPSA did concede that the definition of facilities subject to levies should be expanded to include other vessels, such as those doing work on existing subsea pipelines or decommissioning a production platform. The review also recommended that invoicing for levies should cease for facilities that leave Australian waters within a year. Currently MODU owners pay an annual fee whether or not the equipment remains all year in Australia.

For more information, contact **Brian Petty** at 1/202-293-0670 or [brian.petty@iadc.org](mailto:brian.petty@iadc.org).

### Safety alerts issued

**Alert 06-23** Forklift incident - broken leg.

**Alert 06-24:** Short fall results in a fatality

**Alert 06-25:** Poor-quality light fixture causes fire.

[www.iadc.org/alerts.htm](http://www.iadc.org/alerts.htm)

### Reminders

IADC Regional HSE Committee meeting, 12 Sept, Oklahoma City, Okla.

IADC Houston Chapter Annual Golf Tournament & Dance, 15 Sept.

IADC North Sea Chapter meeting, 26 Sept, Aberdeen.

IADC Annual Meeting, 21-22 Sept, San Antonio.

## E&P industry responds to EU energy initiative, fights ‘all hazards’ approach

The International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (OGP), in cooperation with IADC, has responded to the **European Commission’s** “Green Paper on a European Strategy for Sustainable, Competitive and Secure Energy.”

The commission set 6 priority areas in seeking industry response:

- Energy for growth and jobs in Europe: completing the internal European gas market;
- An internal market that guarantees security of supply: solidarity between Member States;
- Tackling security and competitiveness of energy supply: towards a more sustainable efficient and diverse energy mix;
- An integrated approach to tackling climate change;
- Encouraging innovation: a strategic European technology plan; and
- Towards a coherent external energy policy.

Of particular importance involving “security of supply,” OGP took the position that on critical infrastructure

protection, a careful gap analysis is necessary before any action is explored and that identification of critical infrastructure must avoid increasing the threat of terrorist attacks.

OGP and IADC are continuing efforts to persuade the commission to focus on likely targets of terrorist attacks, rather than adopt an “all hazards” approach involving extraneous threats from natural or weather-related disasters.

At a minimum, industry seeks that facilities considered for additional scrutiny be limited to those that are genuinely vital to the European energy supply and not isolated facilities such as offshore drilling rigs and platforms. The **Directorate General for Energy and Transportation** is in the process of preparing a document on the protection of critical energy and transport infrastructure. The commission is expected to adopt it before the end of the year.

For more information, contact **Brian Petty** at 1/202-293-0670 or [brian.petty@iadc.org](mailto:brian.petty@iadc.org).

## WellCAP retesting policy clarified

The WellCAP Review Panel recently approved a request from an IADC contractor member to issue a clarification and restatement of WellCAP policy for retesting students who have failed a written or simulator examination.

As stated in the policy, if a student does not satisfactorily pass the written or simulator tests, one retest may be given. The retest must be different from the original test but must include the same skills failed in the original test. It also must be of at least equal difficulty as the original.

The retest must be given within 45

days or the entire course must be retaken. Failure to pass a retest will require the student to attend the full course again, at which time the student will be required to complete all parts of the examination process as required for a full course.

The clarification was included in WellCAP Bulletin 06-02, distributed to all WellCAP training providers and archived on the IADC web site at [www.iadc.org](http://www.iadc.org).

For more information, contact **Steve Kropla** at ext 211 or [steve.kropla@iadc.org](mailto:steve.kropla@iadc.org).

## Accreditation updates

### WELLCAP

Accreditation awarded:

- **Uintah Basin Applied Technology**, Utah (conditional).

### HSE RIG PASS

Accreditation pending:

- **Cishac-Consultores Integrales en Seguridad, Higiene, Ambiente y Calidad**, Venezuela (renewal);
- **ONGC Regional Training Center Sivasagar**, India (renewal);
- **ONGC Regional Training Center Vadodara**, India (renewal);
- **Puglisevich Group of Companies**, Canada (new).

Accreditation awarded:

- **Appalachian Basin Training Center**, West Virginia (new);
- **Center for Transportation Safety LLC**, Colorado (new);
- **Crosco Integrated Drilling & Well Services Co Ltd**, Croatia (renewal);
- **Ensign United States Drilling**, Colorado (renewal);
- **The Institute of Robotics**, Texas (renewal);
- **Instituto de Educacion Nautica y Portuaria AC**, Mexico (conditional);
- **M-I Drilling Fluids de Mexico SA de CV**, Mexico (new);
- **ONGC Regional Training Institute**, Chennai, India (renewal);
- **Randy Smith Colombia Ltda**, Colombia (renewal);
- **Transocean Offshore Deepwater Drilling Inc**, Texas (renewal);
- **Transportes Internacionales Tamaulipecos**, Mexico (new);
- **True Drilling LLC**, Wyoming (renewal);
- **World Class Consulting Group**, Mexico (renewal).

## 2006 MTA brings new costs, restrictions

On 11 July, **President Bush** signed into law the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006. It authorized funding for the Coast Guard and included provisions that may affect offshore activities, which:

- Alter and increase the civil penalties that can be imposed for violation of the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2004;
- Provide that only US vessels with a registry endorsement can set, relocate or recover anchors or other mooring equipment of a MODU on the OCS, or transport merchandise or personnel to or from a point in the US to a MODU located over the OCS that is

not attached to the seabed;

- Establish requirements relating to the use of “riding gangs” (e.g., third-party repair crews) on US vessels;
- Require notification to the Coast Guard and Corps of Engineers of the release of any object into the navigable waters of the US that creates and obstruction to navigation;
- Double the limits of liability under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 for most vessels and establish a process for future inflation indexing of these limits.

For more information, please contact **Alan Spackman** at ext 207 or [alan.spackman@iadc.org](mailto:alan.spackman@iadc.org).

## 1st-ever Indian conference to focus on South Asia

IADC is partnering with the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) to launch a new event in 2006 – the SPE/IADC Indian Drilling Technology Conference & Exhibition. It will be held in Mumbai on 16-18 Oct.

The event will focus on technol-

ogy with particular emphasis on drilling and completion activities in South Asia. The theme is “Advanced Drilling Technology: Opportunities in India.”

For more information or to register, go online to [www.iadc.org/conferences.htm](http://www.iadc.org/conferences.htm) or [www.spe.org/](http://www.spe.org/)

## Abstracts called for '07 Cairo conference

Drilling professionals are invited to submit paper proposals for the 2007 SPE/IADC Middle East Drilling Technology Conference & Exhibition, scheduled for 22-24 Oct 2007 in Cairo, Egypt.

“This is the first time we’re holding the conference in Cairo. It’s an exciting venue that puts us in the hub of a busy and important market for IADC members,” said **Ken Fischer**, IADC vice president—Middle East & Asia.

With a theme of “Innovating to Meet Challenges,” the conference will focus on innovations that have provided step-changes in addressing challenges associated with the industry’s demand growth.

Deadline for submissions is 17 Oct 2006.

For more information, go online to [www.iadc.org/conferences.htm](http://www.iadc.org/conferences.htm) or contact **Ken Fischer** at [ken.fischer@iadc.org](mailto:ken.fischer@iadc.org).

## IADC welcomes 26 new members

- **Abraj Energy Services LLC**, Azaiba, Oman;
- **Alford Safety Services Inc**, Houma, La.;
- **Ares Corp**, Burlingame, Calif.;
- **Barbour Corp**, Camarillo, Calif.;
- **China Petroleum Offshore Engineering Co Ltd**, Tianjin City, China;
- **GE Energy Financial Services**, Stamford, Conn.;
- **Geisum Oil Company**, Maadi, Cairo, Egypt;
- **H2 Drilling LLC**, Wichita, Kan.;
- **Hilman Rollers**, Marlboro, N.J.;
- **Hoco Drilling LLC**, Edmond, Okla.;

- **KST International Ltd**, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;
- **NSL America Inc**, Houston, Texas;
- **Packard-Smith Drilling LLC**, Tulsa, Okla.;
- **Pearl Meyer & Partners**, Houston, Texas;
- **Petroleum Engineers of Texas**, Fort Worth, Texas;
- **Phoenix Energy Operations and Services Ltd**, Bogota, D.C., Colombia;
- **Protools (Hunt Oiltools International Ind Co LLC)**, Mussafah, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.;
- **Red Rock Drilling Inc**, Bartonville, Texas;
- **RSM Resources LLC**, Flora Vista, N.M.;

- **Shield Technologies Corp**, Chicago, Ill.;
- **Sino Tharwa Drilling Co**, Cairo, Egypt;
- **SPS International**, Aberdeen, United Kingdom;
- **Summation Enterprise LP DBA System Engineering & Laboratories**, Tyler, Texas;
- **Transportes Internacionales Tamaulipecos SA de CV**, Tamaulipas, Mexico;
- **Ultimate Drilling Co LLC**, Oklahoma City, Okla.;
- **Universidad Autonoma de Tamaulipas Centro de Proyectos Estrategicos**, Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

## EPA's cooling water intake structure rules to apply to new MODUs

**T**he EPA has published a final rule requiring cooling water intake systems for new offshore oil and gas extraction facilities, including MODUs, to meet design and operating requirements.

MODUs that began construction after 17 July 2006 will be required to submit a cooling water plan to the EPA prior to moving onto an operating location under US jurisdiction if the rig's seawater intake capacity is greater than 2 million gallons/day and over 25% of that capacity is for cooling purposes. Once the respective EPA region approves the plan, it must be provided to the operator for inclusion with their General NDPES permit application or amendment.

The following information must be submitted for each applicable MODU:

- The range of water depths that the rig could operate for the Western Gulf

of Mexico OCS general permit area;

- A narrative description of the design, structure, equipment and operation of their cooling water system;

- The design calculation showing that the maximum through-screen design intake flow velocity is not greater than 0.5 ft/second; and

- The design and construction technology plans and description of operational measures that will be implemented to minimize the impingement mortality rate of fish and shellfish.

To ensure that the cooling water system remains as designed, quarterly monitoring and weekly inspections are required. The record keeping requirements for these velocity monitorings and visual inspections of the cooling water system at the drilling location would be the operator's responsibility.

For further information, contact **John Pertgen** at ext 203 or [john.pertgen@iadc.org](mailto:john.pertgen@iadc.org).

## IADC offers Trouble-Free drilling manual in Spanish

**T**rouble-Free Drilling, Vol. 1, is now available in Spanish. The reference manual contains more than 200 full-color illustrations as well as comprehensive works on the physics pertaining to the problem of stuck pipe. Recently translated into Spanish

and rigorously reviewed for accuracy, Trouble-Free Drilling is an excellent tool for Spanish speaking/reading rig-site supervisors, drillers and engineers.

For more information, please contact the Publications department at ext 215 or [loretta.krolczyk@iadc.org](mailto:loretta.krolczyk@iadc.org).

## Rigs receive ASP certificates:

For certificates received since last LTI (in years):

**Energy Drilling:**

Rig 9 (5);

**ENSCO Offshore Co:**

ENSCO 82 (5);

**Nabors Offshore Corp:**

Nabors D-109 (3); Nabors D-110 (8);

**National Drilling & Services:**

Rig 10 (1);

**Noble International:**

Noble Chuck Syring (10);

**Pride:**

Rig Barracuda (2);

**Pride Forasol Chad:**

Rig 342 (4).

For certificates received since last recordable incident (in years):

**Nabors Drilling International Ltd:**

MV Leen 693 (2);

**Noble International:**

Noble Chuck Syring (3);

**Noble Mexico Ltd:**

Noble John Sandifer/391 (4);

**Pride Offshore:**

Rig 651 (6).

## All members invited to UBO/MPD meeting

IADC's **Underbalanced Operations & Managed Pressure Drilling Committee** will hold its 3rd-quarter meeting on 31 Aug to 1 Sept in Calgary, Canada. The committee will focus on completion of the draft "best practice" guide for underbalanced operations. That is intended to form the basis for an API Recommended Practice and for regulations in Alberta.

All IADC members are welcome to attend. Registration can be completed online at [www.iadc.org/committees/underbalanced/meetings.htm](http://www.iadc.org/committees/underbalanced/meetings.htm) or by contacting **Holly Shock** at ext 205.

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