



DRILL BITS



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IADC's accreditation department ISO certified

IADC's Accreditation and Certification Department has received ISO 9001:2000 certification for Quality Management Systems, reaching a new milestone for drilling industry training excellence.

Det Norske Veritas issued the certificate on 30 March following a pre-assessment in February and an initial audit and a final technical review in March.

"We chose DNV to be our ISO registrar because of its long-standing reputation for quality within our industry," said Steve Kropla, IADC Director of

Accreditation and Certification. "We feel their certification to this standard will help IADC demonstrate its own commitment to quality and continuous improvement,

not only within our own organization but in concert with our accredited training providers."

IADC accredits training institutions around the globe that instruct drilling personnel in safety, well control and marine stability and ballast con-

trol. Its range of programs include WellCAP, HSE and UBO RigPass, and Ballast Control & Stability.

The accreditation department also recently launched its new Competence Assurance Accreditation Program, which was developed by IADC as a system of accrediting company competence assurance programs to make sure they meet accepted practices to develop and ensure the skills of their personnel.

For more information, contact Steve Kropla at ext 211 (steve.kropla@iadc.org).



Revised IMO rules provide relief to semis from fuel tank double hull requirements

Responding to concerns raised by IADC, the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee has revised its proposed MARPOL Annex I (Oil Pollution) regulations to lessen their impact on semisubmersible MODU designs.

The committee adopted a Unified Interpretation. It establishes the damage conditions that must be considered, when assessing stability under the MODU Code, in providing protection to fuel tanks to locations considered subject to damage.

Even with the revisions, modifica-

tions will be required on semisubmersible designs for units built or entering into service after the regulations become effective. But if IADC had not intervened, double hull protection would have been required on the interior portions of columns and pontoons.

IADC extends its appreciation to Hans Henrik Petersen of the Danish Shipowner's Association, who introduced IADC's paper to the IMO committee.

For further information on the new regulations, contact Alan Spackman at ext 207 (alan.spackman@iadc.org).

Safety alerts issued

Alert 06-13: Dropped object from derrick.

Alert 06-14: Caught between – spooling cable results in an injury.

Alert 06-15: Improper use of power hand tool results in an injury.

www.iadc.org/alerts.htm

Reminders

IADC North Sea Chapter Meeting and Annual Safety Awards Ceremony, 12 May, Aberdeen.

IADC Houston Chapter Luncheon, 16 May, Houston, Texas.

IADC Drilling Onshore America Conference & Exhibition, 18 May, Houston, Texas.

IADC Mooring Workshop, 23 May, Houston, Texas.

IADC International Tax Seminar, 8-9 June, Cancun, Mexico.

Alert: The meeting with a delegation from Iraq's oil industry, planned to take place on 3 May, has been canceled. For more information, contact Holly Shock at ext 205.

European well control roundtable held

About 20 drilling industry professionals attended a European Regional Roundtable/Workshop in Amsterdam on 3 April, immediately before the 2006 IADC European Well Control Conference.

The workshop featured a presentation on gas flow after cementing by **John Wright** of **John Wright and Associates**. During the roundtable session, facilitator **Paul Sonnemann** of **Chevron** led a discussion on current well control issues in Europe. Much of the discussion centered around competence and training issues.

Attendees represented a broad spectrum of IADC's membership. Besides Chevron, participating producer mem-

bers included **Shell**, **Statoil** and **ExxonMobil**. Contractors present included **KCADEUTAG**, **Maersk**, **Pride International**, **Arab Drilling & Workover Company** and **Transocean**. Regulatory agencies present were the Danish Energy Authority and the Netherlands State Supervision of Mines.

A similar event is planned in conjunction with the 2006 IADC International Well Control Conference, scheduled for 7-8 November in Abu Dhabi, UAE. To register for the conference, go to www.iadc.org/conferences/Intl_Well_Control.htm.

For more information, contact **Steve Kropla** at ext 211 (steve.kropla@iadc.org).

Indian safety regulator powering up

The Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD), an arm of India's Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, is undergoing changes aimed at transforming it into a world-class safety regulator.

The petroleum secretary, **M.S. Srinivasan**, has charged OISD with strengthening its role as the body responsible for offshore safety and challenged the organization to become a technical resource for the industry.

Ken Fischer, IADC Vice President-

Middle East & Asia, recently met with **J.B. Verma**, OISD executive director, to discuss plans for the agency and to brief OISD staff on IADC's safety-related initiatives and programs.

OISD indicated that it is keen to work with IADC and its **South Central Asia Chapter** members as new safety legislation and supporting regulations are drafted.

For more information, please contact **Ken Fischer** at ken.fischer@iadc.org.

Petty elected US Trade Committee chairman

IADC Senior Vice President-Government Affairs **Brian Petty** has been elected to a 4-year term as chairman of the US Industry Advisory Committee for Automotive Equipment and Capital Goods.

The 28 members of the committee are jointly designated by the Secretary of Commerce and the US Trade Repre-

sentative to advise the US government on trade policy, including bilateral and multilateral trade agreements. Other members of the committee include representatives of **Cooper Cameron**, **General Motors** and **Caterpillar**.

For more information, contact **Brian Petty** at 1/202 293 0670 (brian.petty@iadc.org).

Accreditation updates

WellCAP

Accreditation awarded:

- **SAS Industries Inc**, Houston, Texas (full).

Accreditation pending:

- **Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corp**, Japan (renewal).

HSE RIG PASS

Accreditation pending:

- **Center for Transportation Safety LLC**, Commerce City, Colo. (new).

- **ONGC**, RTI Chennai, India (renewal).

WTD implementation heads to tribunals

A meeting was held in late April at the United Kingdom Offshore Operators' Aberdeen offices to prepare for court action related to the EU Working Time Directive.

Offshore industry trades and their legal counselors discussed cases brought in Scottish tribunals by union members to challenge the industry's interpretation and application of the directive on the UK Continental Shelf. **Carolyn Cosgrove** of **Maersk Contractors** participated for IADC.

The unions maintain that the law provides an extra 4 weeks paid leave than currently provided by the companies. IADC and UKOOA's lawyers are confident that current offshore industry rota cycles already satisfy the law. The matter is pending for consideration in October.

Another matter to be resolved is the industry's claim that the tribunals don't have jurisdiction for most of the UKCS due to an apparent drafting error in the UK law while adopting the EU law.

For more information, contact **Brian Petty** at 1/202 293 0670 (brian.petty@iadc.org).

'06 storm season recommendations published

The API has published Recommended Practice 95J "Gulf of Mexico Jackup Operations for Hurricane Season – Interim Recommendations."

The recommendations were developed by a joint-industry team under the leadership of **Bill Hedrick** of **Rowan Company**, with cooperation from the **IADC Jackup Rig Committee**.

The RP is intended to provide an interim approach for the 2006 hurricane season and will be withdrawn after the results of ongoing studies can be considered and incorporated into the relevant standards for jackup site assessment.

Topics addressed by the RP include:

- need or timely site survey information and site-specific geotechnical and metocean data;
- preloading processes;
- evaluation of air gap (including recommended minimum air gap and wave crest versus water depth curves for use where site-specific information is not developed);
- storm preparation and evacuation;
- location tracking systems; and
- collection of data from rigs sustaining hurricane-force winds.

Based on work of a Joint Industry Project, API is developing RP 95F to provide interim recommendations for moored MODUs. It will likely address:

- Mooring design criteria (10-year return period based on data set including 2005 sea-

son and minimum 64 knot wing speed);

- use of conservative "hot spot" in absence of site-specific metocean data;
- site-specific risk ranking;
- mooring system inspection;
- installation verification;
- storm preparedness and response;
- location tracking systems; and
- collection of data from rigs sustaining hurricane-force winds.

This new RP will be featured prominently at the IADC Mooring Workshop, which will be held in Houston on 23 May.

The recommendations contained within the RPs are largely driven by the results of preliminary re-assessment of the metocean conditions experienced during hurricanes and the conclusion that wave heights and wind force levels are considerably greater than previously assumed in design and assessment standards. API is expected to have RP 95F available by mid-May.

An industry team presented information on the development of the standards to officials of the US Minerals Management Service and Coast Guard at a meeting in Herndon, Va., on 7 April.

MMS is expected to develop 2 separate Notice to Lessees to mandate use of the RPs for Gulf of Mexico operations during the 2006 hurricane season.

For additional information, contact **Alan Spackman** at ext 207 (alan.spackman@iadc.org).

SCA Chapter meets in India

John Ramalho of **Shell** gave a presentation on underbalanced drilling at the **IADC South Central Asia Chapter's** first meeting of 2006, held in Mumbai, India, on 11 March.

Mr Ramalho's presentation explained the uses of underbalanced drilling and illustrated the equipment and procedures necessary to carry out the technique.

He presented several examples of potential UBO benefits and highlighted the need for attention to planning and HSE issues.

The meeting was hosted by the chapter chairman, **UN Bose**, Director of Technical and Field Services for **ONGC**.

For more information, please contact **Ken Fischer** at ext 202 (ken.fischer@iadc.org).

Rigs receive ASP certificates:

For certificates received since last LTI (in years):

Arab Drilling & Workover Co:

Rigs 5 (1), 9 (1), 12 (1), 15 (1), 17 (1), 118 (1);

Cactus Drilling Co:

Rigs 108 (1), 115 (1), 118 (1);

Deilmann Haniel Holding, Libya:

Rig T-16 (6);

ENSCO Arabia Co:

Rig E-76 (4);

ENSCO Gerudi (M) SDN BHD:

Rig Ensco 52 (10);

KCA DEUTAG GMBH:

Rig NIDC-63 (2);

Noble Drilling Mexico:

Rig Noble Johnnie Hoffman (11);

Noble Drilling Middle East & India:

Rigs Noble David Tinsley (4);

Noble International Ltd:

Rig Noble Kenneth Delaney (3);

Orion Drilling Company:

Rig Halesy Comet (1);

Pride International:

Rig Pride South Atlantic (3);

Sonamer Perfuracoos:

Rigs Kizomba A SWHP (2), Kizomba B SWHP (1).

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

Cactus Drilling Co:

Rigs 106 (1), 109 (1); 111 (1), 117 (1);

Rig T-61 (2);

Noble Drilling Middle East & India:

Rig Noble David Tinsley (1);

Saipar Drilling Co:

Rig 2 (3);

Unit Drilling Company:

Rigs 11 (3), 12 (1), 27 (1), 32 (1), 40 (1), 112 (7), 134 (1), 201 (1), 233 (2), 236 (1), 301 (1), 304 (1), 305 (1), 311 (1), 319 (2), 331 (1), 334 (1), 337 (1), 341 (1).

Indian Petroleum Minister expresses support for IADC in service tax dispute

India's new Petroleum Minister, **Murti Deora**, has gone public in supporting IADC's position that the government's service tax shouldn't include many – if any – oil-field services, particularly “survey and exploration” services. Mr Deora announced his position during a recent tour of oil capitals to promote India's new offshore licensing round.

While Mr Deora's support is welcomed, the Finance Ministry has yet to be persuaded to relent on application of the service tax. Indications, however, show that the ministry is “sympathetic” to his concern that the tax is

a disincentive to investments in India's offshore industry.

IADC has taken the matter to the Mumbai High Court, where a decision could be made by July. Favorable action by the Finance Ministry could make court action unnecessary. Even so, however, it would remain to be seen when any related legislation would become effective and if they would be partially or wholly retroactive to September 2004, when the tax was first imposed.

For more information, contact **Brian Petty** at 1/202 293 0670 (brian.petty@iadc.org).

Drilling conference set for Thailand

IADC and the Society of Petroleum of Engineers have announced that the 6th biennial IADC/SPE Asia Pacific Drilling Technology Conference (APDT) will be held on 13-15 November at the Sofitel Central Plaza in Bangkok, Thailand. “Meeting the Value Challenge: Performance, Deliverability and Cost” will be the theme.

The conference chairman, **Maroot Mrigadat** of **PTT Exploration & Production Public Co** will open the event with a welcome address. Joining Mr Mrigadat will be **Abdul Jaleel Al-Khalifa**, 2007 SPE president, and

IADC Executive Committee member **Ken Picard** of **Ensign International Energy Services**. Mr Picard also will be among industry leaders featured in the keynote session.

More than 80 technical papers and posters will be presented over the 3-day event. A special session on under-balanced drilling and managed pressure drilling is scheduled for 14 November.

For more information, please contact **Jenny Chong**, SPE event manager, by phone at +60.3.6201.2330, by fax at +60.3.6201.3220, or by e-mail at jchong@spe.org.

IADC welcomes 12 new members

- **At Balance Americas LLC**, Houston, Texas;
- **Black Hawk Drilling Inc**, Roosevelt, Utah;
- **Center for Transportation Safety**, Commerce City, Colo.;
- **Frank's International Inc**, Houston, Texas;
- **Greystone Drilling LP**, Houston, Texas;
- **Lobo Well Service LLC**, Park City, Utah;
- **M.D. Cowan Inc**, Odessa, Texas;
- **Red River Energy Inc**, Spring, Texas;
- **Saag Drilling and Well Services SDN**, Selangor, Malaysia;
- **Sky Climber**, Stone Mountain, Ga.;
- **Sledge Drilling Corp**, Midland, Texas;
- **Strata Energy Services Inc**, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Well Control Committee meeting planned for 7 June

The next meeting of the **IADC Well Control Committee** is scheduled for 7 June in Lafayette, La. The event will be sponsored by **Randy Smith Training Solutions** and will take place at its Lafayette facility, 201 Energy Parkway.

An agenda for the meeting will be posted in the Well Control Committee section of the IADC Web site. Participants are encouraged to register in advance using the online form.

For more information, contact **Steve Kropla** at ext. 211 (steve.kropla@iadc.org).

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