

PEOPLE & COMPANIES

Companies to offer managed pressure drilling system. Impact Solution Group Ltd and Drilling Systems (UK) Ltd entered into an agreement to jointly develop and commercialize Impact's patent pending Secure Drilling™ managed pressure drilling system for the oil and gas industry. The system, based on the Micro-Flux Control approach, is designed to allow for automatic kick detection and control as well as full bottom hole pressure control. The system is also expected to provide operators with a safer and more efficient method of drilling wells in challenging drilling environments.

Parker announces appointment.

Parker Drilling announced the appointment of **David C Mannon** as Senior Vice President and COO. He replaces **Robert F Nash**, who left the company in June. Mr Mannon will report directly to **Robert L Parker, Jr**, President and CEO. Mr Mannon began his career with Sedco Forex in 1980 as a drilling manager and joined Triton Engineering Services, a Noble Drilling subsidiary, in 1988 where he held managerial positions culminating with his appointment as President and CEO in 2003.

LEWCO completes mud pump sales.

The LeTourneau Ellis Williams Company (LEWCO) sold four WH-1612 mud pumps to **Enterprise Nationale des Travaux aux Puits** (ENTP), a drilling subsidiary of Algerian national oil company **Sonatrach**. LEWCO will also supply three mud pumps for **Smedvig's** new semisubmersible self-erecting tender under construction at **Keppel FELS** in Singapore. The rig is scheduled for delivery in late 2005 and is based upon a design similar to Smedvig's West Alliance.

Whipstock depth record set.

Scientific Drilling Inc and **ENI Petroleum** set a record for a gyro MWD whipstock setting/window milling operation. SDI oriented the whipstock at 22,863 ft, allowing a window to be milled and drilling to continue an additional 120 ft.

Unit Corp announces management changes. Unit Corp Chairman and CEO **John Nikkel** will retire as CEO of the company effective April 1, 2005.

Larry Pinkston, President, has been elected to assume the additional roles as the company's CEO upon Mr Nikkel's retirement. Mr Nikkel will continue to serve as the company's Chairman of the Board and has also agreed to serve as a consultant to the company following his retirement.



John Nikkel

HSE Manager appointed. BJ Process and Pipeline Services announced that **Lee Pilling** was appointed health, safety and environment manager responsible for global HSE direction, implementation and development of HSE programs for the division. He will play an instrumental role for all PPS facilities and operational activities.



Lee Pilling

Obituary

Weldon Homer Smith died 10 Dec in Houston. Mr Smith became President of **Big 6 Drilling Company** in 1949, serving the remainder of his life as President and then Chairman of the Board. He was also former Chairman of the Houston Chapter of the American Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors, predecessor to IADC. Mr Smith also worked for Reed Roller Bit Company, opening a branch office in Wyoming and as Assistant Sales Manager for Hunt Tool Company in Houston before joining Big 6 Drilling Company. ■

AMFELS secures rig repair contracts. AMFELS, the US subsidiary of **Keppel Offshore & Marine**, won four contracts valued at \$80 million. Three contracts are for the repair of **ENSCO International's** jackups ENSCO 86, 89 and 99. The ENSCO 99 arrived in the yard in mid-November for life extension and refurbishment work. The fourth contract is for the refurbishment of **Diamond Offshore Drilling's** Ocean Warwick, which suffered leg damage during Hurricane Ivan.

Coiled tubing services contract. **BJ Services Company** was awarded a 12-month contract by **Shell UK** for coiled tubing drilling, engineering and solids control services for two wells on the Gannet platform in the Central North Sea. BJ completed onshore trials in October with plans to begin offshore operations in early December. The wells will be serviced consecutively with completion expected by February 2005. ■

PRODUCTS

New whipstock system. **Baker Oil Tools** introduced its WindowMaster G2 Whipstock System that combines the one-trip capability of the company's field-proven WindowMaster Whipstock System with a full drift window mill. The system's full drift window mill requires less rathole to be drilled and can start, mill and ream a window without requiring a change in the bottomhole assembly. In one trip, the G2 can be run in the hole, oriented to a new hole direction and anchored in place to completely mill a window. This eliminates at least two round trips with drill pipe that would be required with other window cutting systems. The G2 system uses Baker Oil

Tools' Metal Muncher technology to mill a window without sacrificing quality and with minimum weight and torque on the work string. The resulting cuttings are small and easily circulated out of the hole.

Measurement While Drilling tool.

Ultima Labs announced its initial delivery of its 4 3/4-in. Compact Propagation Resistivity Tool (CPR). The CPR incorporates technology patented by Ultima Labs that allows the tool to be made shorter than competing devices without sacrificing measurement quality, according to the company. ■