

2006 IADC/SPE Drilling Conference tackles people, finance, planning

IF YOU HAVEN'T already, mark your calendars now for the 2006 IADC/SPE Drilling Conference. The annual event, hosted by two of the industry's most-respected associations, will be held 21-23 February at the Fontainebleau Resort & Spa in Miami Beach, Fla.

Over the course of three days, professionals of the E&P industry will get a platform to advance worldwide drilling operations, promote solutions to common problems and improve overall efficiency and profitability. It also will give producers, contractors and service companies ample opportunities to meet, discuss, evaluate and share ideas.



Mark Childers of Atwood Oceanics serves as chairman of the 2006 IADC/SPE Drilling Conference.

The theme of this year's conference is "Achieving Our Goals: People, Planning and Performance." Corresponding with that theme are three plenary sessions – "Wall Street Performance Expectations"; "People: Getting, Training and Retaining Them" and "Planning for a Successful Future."

The conference, chaired by **Mark A Childers**, General Manager Technical, for **Atwood Oceanics Inc**, will feature 18 technical sessions with more than 100 papers focusing on a wide variety of drilling topics. The following pages will outline each session, with summaries of the papers scheduled for presentation.

IADC Chairman **Claus Chur**, member of the Board of **KCA DEUTAG**, and **Eve Sprunt**, SPE President and Senior Technical Advisor for **Chevron Technology Ventures**, will address the conference.

WHAT WALL STREET WANTS

Cash is king, and the kick-off plenary session, "Wall Street Performance Expectations," set for Tuesday, 21 Feb, will be moderated by **Allen Parks**, Part-



ner, **Parks, Paton, Hoepfl & Brown**. Panelists will be **Lawrence R Dickerson**, President & COO, **Diamond Offshore Drilling Inc**; **Stephen J Hadden**, Senior VP of E&P, **Devon Energy Corp**; **Jean-Marc Perraud**, CFO, **Schlumberger Ltd**; **Frank Bracken**, Energy Analyst, **Jeffries & Co**; and **M A "Pete" Miller**, CEO, **National Oilwell Varco**.

Drilling contractors may focus on the wellbore, but financial centers around the world are looking at Wall Street performance. Operators, drilling contractors and service companies are under continued pressure to reap solid financial performance from Wall Street and boards of directors. The bar also is continually being raised on performance standards. However, financial performance isn't controlled solely by efficient drilling and cost control. It's often dramatically impacted by severe weather, commodity demand and OPEC decisions – all uncontrollable factors.

The panel of experts will look at each of these factors, as well as how the E&P industry can best deal with them.

THE LOOMING PEOPLE CRISIS

Many agree that personnel is an upcoming and serious problem the industry must confront. It should therefore be no surprise that the conference includes an important plenary on this topic. "People: Getting, Training and Retaining Them," moderated by **Dean Oliver**, Director and **Eberly Chair Professor** of the **University of Oklahoma**, will be held on Wednesday, 22 February.

The panel will tackle the shortage of qualified personnel head-on. Each of the management professionals from energy

companies, drilling contractors, service companies and universities will share their views on the challenge of recruiting, developing and retaining talented and qualified workers for the industry worldwide. The aim will be to help our industry become more effective and efficient in dealing with the personnel issue.

Panelists will be **Carlos A Morales Gil**, Director General **PEMEX E&P**; **David King Sr**, Senior VP ESG Global Operations, **Halliburton**; **Mark Jackson Sr**, Senior VP and COO, **Noble Corp**; **Mike Stice**, President, **ConocoPhillips**; and **Kevin Lacy**, VP-Global Drilling and Completions, **Chevron**.

PLANNING FOR SUCCESS

To keep pace with the demands of the petroleum industry, operating companies are constantly modifying and tailoring their activities. In turn, drilling contractors and service companies are constantly waiting to react to these operator activities. But it is the contractor that anticipates industry trends and operator needs that gets rewarded. For operators, too, involving drilling contractors and service companies early in a project life-cycle will elicit more successful and efficient operations.

Audience will hear industry executives discuss operator requirements and how service companies can meet them. "Planning for a Successful Future" will be moderated by **Cary A. Moomjian Jr**, VP and General Counsel & Secretary, **ENSCO International**. Panelists will be **Don Jacobsen**, Director, Global Well Delivery, **Shell E&P**; **Scott Sigurdson**, Well Manager-GOM Production, **BP**; **Marion M Woolie**, Senior VP-Operations, **GlobalSantaFe Corporation**; **George S Dotson**, President & COO, **Helmerich & Payne IDC**; and **Mark Phillips**, VP-Gulf of Mexico, **Halliburton**.

At all three plenary sessions, audience participation will be strongly encouraged. "Voting pads" will be available to gauge audience response to specific questions. The voting pads will even allow the audience to see the responses broken down for operators, drilling contractors and service companies. ■