



Transocean announces drilling contracts for 3 semisubmersibles

TRANSOCEAN announced contract awards for 3 semisubmersible rigs — the Sovereign Explorer, Transocean Amiran-te and Sedco 712, totaling an estimated \$552 million in possible revenues over the contract's primary terms.

The Sovereign Explorer has been awarded a 2-year contract from **Repsol Exploracion S.A.** for drilling operations primarily offshore Brazil. The contract is expected to commence in January 2008, following the completion of current contract commitments and scheduled out-of-service time. Revenues of approximately \$278 million are possible over the contract period.

A US affiliate of Repsol also has awarded the Transocean Amiran-te a 2-well, estimated 80-day contract for drilling operations in the US Gulf of Mexico. It's expected to commence in January 2007, in direct continuation of current contract commitments, with revenues of approximately \$26 million possible for the contract period.

A subsidiary of **Oilexco Inc** has awarded the Sedco 712 a 2-year contract extension for drilling operations in the UK North Sea. The extension is expected to commence in March 2008 with revenues of approximately \$248 million possible over the 2-year period. ■

CROSCO contracts 2 rigs for Nile Delta exploration

RWE DEA HAS contracted two 2,000-hp onshore drilling rigs from Croatian firm **CROSCO Integrated Drilling Well Services** for a 2-year period. The rigs are intended to enable exploration in the Disouq concession in the Nile Delta, Egypt.

The first rig will commence drilling in September 2006, and the second will begin work in 2007.

RWE Dea, as contractor and operator, has 100% participating interest in the concession, which covers an area of 5,523 sq km. The company is currently in the process of acquiring 1,000 sq km 3D seismic to better understand the exploration area and to define the next drilling prospects. ■

4-rig, 4-year contract with Saudi Aramco is GlobalSantaFe's biggest drilling deal ever



The GSF Main Pass I is among 4 rigs that won 4-year terms with Saudi Aramco. The GlobalSantaFe deal is believed to be the largest jackup agreement in the history of the offshore drilling industry.

GLOBALSANTAFE announced it has signed a contract with **Saudi Aramco** to provide 4 jackup rigs for 4-year terms beginning in the first half of 2007.

The 4 rigs — the GSF Main Pass I, the GSF Main Pass IV, the GSF High Island I and the GSF High Island II — are scheduled to mobilize in pairs in the fourth quarter of 2006 from the US Gulf of Mexico to a Middle East shipyard for approximately 60 days of upgrades. The rigs will then move to their drilling locations offshore Saudi Arabia, with contract commencement expected in March and April 2007.

This agreement is the largest drilling contract ever signed by GlobalSantaFe, and it is believed to be the largest jackup agreement in the history of the offshore drilling industry.

Including this agreement, the strong worldwide demand for offshore drilling services has pushed GlobalSantaFe's

contract drilling backlog to more than \$8 billion from \$4.8 billion at the start of 2006.

Additionally, the GSF C.R. Luigs drillship has been recognized by the **US Minerals Management Service** for outstanding drilling operations in 2005. The ultra-deepwater drillship operating in the US Gulf of Mexico for **BHP Billiton** received an MMS Safety Award for Excellence (SAFE) "for the outstanding manner in which it conducted its contract drilling operations." MMS congratulated Global-SantaFe for applying SAFE principles in daily operational activities and "promoting the practice of operational safety, environmental protection, and compliance with the operating regulations."

The GSF C.R. Luigs underwent 9 MMS inspections in 2005 without a single incident of noncompliance and had no lost-time injuries during the year. ■



Sevan Marine's newbuild is based on the "Sevan Stabilized Platform" concept.

Atwood Oceanics awarded 3-well drilling deal offshore Turkey

ATWOOD OCEANICS announced the Atwood Southern Cross has been awarded a contract by **Turkiye Petrolleri A.O.** (TPAO) to drill 3 firm wells with options to drill 3 more off the coast of Turkey. The contract provides for an operating dayrate for the 3 firm wells of \$290,000, with a rate of \$320,000 for the option wells.

TPAO will provide a tow vessel and dayrate during rig mobilization.

The drilling of the 3 firm wells is expected to take 100 days. If all option wells are drilled, the program could extend another 100 days.

This contract will commence immediately upon the rig completing its current commitments in the Black Sea for **Melrose Resources** and **Toreador Turkey Ltd.**, estimated to be between May to July 2007. ■

Maersk declares option for 3rd deepwater semi

MAERSK CONTRACTORS has declared the option for a third deepwater development semisubmersible at **Keppel FELS Ltd** in Singapore. The rig is expected to be delivered in March 2010.

Similar to its sister rigs, the rig will be able to operate at water depths up to 10,000 ft and is designed for areas such as offshore West Africa, the Gulf of Mexico and Southeast Asia. Emphasis has been made on improving the drilling efficiency. It features a dynamic positioning system, as well as the ability to attach to a pre-laid mooring system. It will be able to accommodate 180 people onboard. ■

Sevan Drilling signs contract for deepwater rig

SEVAN DRILLING Pte Ltd, owned by the Norwegian **Sevan Marine ASA**, has signed an agreement with a consortium consisting of **Siemens** and **Rolls-Royce** for deliveries to a new deepwater drilling rig. The rig will be equipped to operate in rough climates and is expected to be ready for delivery in the first half of 2009.

Siemens will deliver electrical, automation, telecom and control systems together

with the rig's dynamic positioning systems. Rolls-Royce will deliver diesel generators and thrusters.

Sevan Marine has developed a cylindrical platform, the "Sevan Stabilized Platform" (SSP), which the company says combines sea-going properties with reasonable building costs. The commissioned deepwater rig is based on the SSP concept. It will be constructed and partly built in Norway. ■

2006
IADC DRILLING GULF OF MEXICO
"Deepwater 2006 and Beyond"

Omni Houston Hotel Westside
Houston, Texas
5-6 December 2006

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