



Pride Hawaii wins Rig of the Year

PRIDE International's rig Pride Hawaii, working for **Shell Exploration & Production-Asia**, has won the global Shell Rig of the Year Award in the jackup category for 2005. The award was determined from the performance level of Pride Hawaii between mid-2004 to mid-2005 as shown by the Key Performance Indicators addressing safety and drilling performance data.

In response, **Gary Casswell**, Pride's Vice President Eastern Hemisphere, said, "This is a great achievement. Congratulations to all of our Pride Hawaii crews. Such an

achievement recognizes everyone's hard work and dedication to safety, world-class rig performance and working closely with our client. This achievement is further enhanced by way of the very high standards that Shell sets worldwide."

John Blocker, Executive Vice President



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and Chief Operating Officer, praised, "I cannot be more proud of a group of people than those who operate, supervise and manage the Pride Hawaii. Fantastic job and keep up the good work!"

An award presentation was held in Houston on 1 November. ■

Pride boosts interest in Angola joint venture

PRIDE INTERNATIONAL recently announced the acquisition from **Sonangol**, the national oil company of Angola, of an additional 40% interest in the joint venture companies that own the two ultra-deepwater drillships Pride Africa and Pride Angola, and the 300-ft independent-leg cantilever jackup Pride Cabinda. The acquisition increases Pride's interest in the joint venture companies from 51% to 91%, with Sonangol holding the remaining 9%. The cash purchase price was about \$175 million.

The joint venture companies, which also hold management agreements for the

deepwater platform rigs Kizomba A and Kizomba B, currently have an aggregate outstanding debt of \$252 million. The joint venture's financial results will continue to be consolidated in Pride's financial statements, with Sonangol's ownership reflected as minority interest. Pride expects the transaction to be accretive to earnings in 2006.

"We are pleased to increase our interest in this very successful joint venture and, at the same time, continue our strategic relationship with Sonangol," said **Louis A Raspino**, President and Chief Executive Officer. ■

Transocean awarded numerous rig contracts

TRANSOCEAN WAS AWARDED contracts by Oil and Natural Gas Corp Ltd (ONGC) of India for 5 of its jackup rigs totaling 15 rig years and an estimated \$805 million in revenues that could be generated over the primary terms of the contract.

The rigs are Ron Tappmeyer, Randolph Yost, Trident II, Trident XII and JT Angel. Each was awarded 3-year contracts.

Transocean also has won a minimum 3-year contract from **Devon Energy Corp** for its fifth-generation, ultra-deepwater drillship Deepwater Discovery to operate offshore Brazil. The contract is expected to begin in November 2008, and revenues of up to \$775 million could be generated over the primary term.

The Deepwater Discovery is currently drilling offshore Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe in the Joint Development Zone. Completion is slated for August 2006.

Three of Transocean's high-specification deepwater floaters — the Transocean Marinas, Jack Bates and Sedco 709 — have also been awarded contracts of 2-3 years for drilling operations in the US Gulf of Mexico and West Africa.

Transocean Marinas received a 3-year contract from BP, expected to begin in December 2006. The Jack Bates won a 2-year contract from **Woodside Energy** and is expected to begin operations in the GOM in November 2006. Sedco 709 was awarded a 2-year contract from **Shell Nigeria E&P** for drilling its Bonga field program offshore Nigeria. The contract is expected to commence in September 2006.

Additionally, a subsidiary of **Royal Dutch Shell** has awarded Transocean a 2-year contract extension for its moored semisubmersible rig Deepwater Nautilus. The extension is expected to begin in December 2006 in direct continuation of the rig's current contract. Revenues of about \$310 million could be generated over the extension period.

The Deepwater Nautilus is currently operating for Shell E&P in the GOM. It recently returned to Shell's Pathfinder project in Green Canyon Block 390, where the rig was moored before the arrival of Hurricane Katrina, after a portion of its subsea well control system lost during the storm was retrieved. ■

Rowan Companies awarded new offshore contracts

ROWAN COMPANIES

was recently awarded new offshore drilling contracts. The Gorilla VI is committed through November 2006 to drill up to 4 wells off the coast of Newfoundland. The rig recently completed work offshore eastern Canada and will soon mobilize to Mulgrave, Nova Scotia, for maintenance. The new assignment, which Rowan expects to commence in early March, could generate revenues of about \$53 million.

Additionally, the Gorilla III has a 1-year assignment offshore Trinidad that could generate revenues of about \$68 million. The rig should fulfill its current commitment in the Gulf of Mexico late in the second quarter 2006 and be relocated to Trinidad during the third quarter. ■



Rowan Companies' rig Gorilla VI is committed to drill up to 4 wells offshore Newfoundland.

ENSCO to provide new ultra-deepwater rig

A WHOLLY-OWNED subsidiary of ENSCO International has entered into a drilling contract with 2 large independent oil companies to provide a new ultra-deepwater semisubmersible drilling rig to be named ENSCO 8501. The drilling contract with **Nexen Petroleum USA Inc**, a subsidiary of **Nexen Inc**, and with **Noble Energy Inc** is for a firm 3½ years primary term, with four 1-year extension options at mutually agreed day rates. The term commitment is comprised of a 2-year obligation by Nexen and a 1½-year obligation by Noble Energy. The aggregate day rate revenue expected to be paid under the contract during the primary term is about \$423 million. Under the terms of the agreement, ENSCO will also be reimbursed for mobilization and other start-up costs.

ENSCO also announced that it entered into an agreement with **Keppel FELS Ltd** in Singapore to construct ENSCO 8501. The total project cost of ENSCO 8501 is currently expected to be about \$338 million, with mobilization to the US Gulf of Mexico anticipated by the second quarter 2009.

ENSCO 8501 will be the company's second semisubmersible rig in the 8500 Series, and the company's third deepwater semisubmersible rig, joining ENSCO 7500, delivered in 2000, and ENSCO 8500, expected to be delivered in the second quarter 2008.

The ENSCO 8500 Series deepwater semisubmersibles are an enhanced version of the ENSCO 7500. They are capable of drilling in up to 8,500 ft of water and can be readily upgraded to 10,000 ft water-depth capability if required.

Additionally, in late January, an ENSCO subsidiary took delivery of ENSCO 107, an enhanced KFELS B Class design jackup rig constructed by Keppel FELS. The rig, which was delivered one month ahead of schedule and within budget, is contracted for work commitments in Southeast Asia and New Zealand until the third quarter 2007.

"We are pleased to complete another successful project with Keppel FELS. ENSCO 107 is the company's 8th ultra-high specification jackup rig constructed by Keppel FELS since 1999," said **Carl Thorne**, Chairman and CEO of ENSCO. ■

TESCO sells 4 Casing Drilling rigs to Turnkey E&P

TESCO CORPORATION HAS completed its sale of 4 Casing Drilling rigs to **Turnkey E&P Inc**. Additionally, TESCO and Turnkey have entered into a Preferred Supplier Agreement in North America for the provision of TESCO services. At closing, TESCO received \$35 million in cash and warrants exercisable over a period of two years to purchase about 5% of Turnkey at a price of Cdn \$6.00. ■

Diamond Offshore upgrading semisubmersible Garden Banks

DIAMOND OFFSHORE DRILLING Inc is initiating a major upgrade of the Victory-class semisubmersible Garden Banks, which has been renamed the Ocean Monarch. The modernized rig will be designed to operate in up to 10,000 ft of water in a moored configuration and will be among the most capable of the company's upgraded Victory-class units. The project is budgeted at \$300 million, including capitalized overhead and interest, spares, testing and delivery, mobilization to Singapore and other associated expenditures. The rig is expected to be ready for service in the fourth quarter 2008. ■