Key announces management changes. Newton W "Trey" Wilson III has been hired as Senior Vice President and General Counsel. He was previously Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of Forest Oil. Prior to joining Forest he was a consultant to the oil industry as well as an executive for two oil and gas companies.

Tesco realigns corporate strategy. Tesco Corporation realigned its corporate strategy and structure, organizing its activities into two businesses, top drives and casing services. The top drive business will comprise top drive sales, rentals and aftermarket sales and service. The casing services business will include casing running and running as well as downhole tool rental and accessory sales.

Atwood announces management changes. Atwood Oceanics announced title changes for the following senior management. Glen Kelley is now Senior Vice President-Marketing and Administration. He was previously Vice President-Contracts and Administration. Alan Quintero, previously Manager-Engineering, is now General Manager-Engineering. Anthony Gallegos is Manager-Contracts and Business Development. He was previously Manager-Business Development.

Varel hires product manager. Bob Dickenson joined Varel International as Oilfield Roller Cone Product Manager. He will be responsible for the management and technical support of Varel's product line and as the primary product liaison for both western hemisphere oilfield sales and service personnel and eastern hemisphere product managers. He will also manage Varel's roller cone product development direction.

Enventure installs first SET system in Latin America. Enventure Global Technology in conjunction with Halliburton installed the first solid expandable tubular (SET) system in Latin America for PEMEX. Enventure expanded 270 ft of 4 5/8-in. FlexClad system to isolate perforations in an oil-producing well in the Gulf of Mexico. Enventure also set a new length record with an openhole liner (OHL) installation for Unocal in the US Gulf of Mexico. Enventure installed approximately 5,100 ft of 9 5/8-in. x 11 3/4-in. openhole liner system, surpassing the existing record for an OHL expansion by more than 1,000 ft.

M-I SWACO opens cuttings reinjection training center. The company opened the industry’s only all-inclusive Cuttings Re-Injection (CRI) Training Center in Aberdeen with a similar facility scheduled to open at the company’s worldwide headquarters in Houston in early 2005. The center is fully-equipped to offer M-I SWACO and customer employees both theoretical and practical hands-on training in all aspects of the CRI process. The 276 sq meter facility includes training rooms, two CRI training simulators, one CRI full-scale slurrification system, one CLEANCUT cuttings collection and transport system, a vacuum cuttings collection system and a 518 centrifuge.

Building on success. BJ Services signs major well services contract. BJ Services' Well Services Division-Europe & Africa signed a 5-year plus options contract with Shell Petroleum Development Co. to provide coiled tubing, stimulation and nitrogen services throughout Europe. The majority of services will be carried out for Shell on the UK continental shelf, on and offshore Holland, offshore Norway and Ireland.

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Noble Corporation is the first recipient of the National Safety Council's Robert W Campbell Award, given for HSE excellence. From left, E Galante, Senior Vice President, ExxonMobil; Mike Cadiqian, HSEQ Manager, Noble; James C Day, Chairman & CEO, Noble; and Jed Bullard, Chairman of the National Safety Council. Noble bested firms from many industries to win the award. See Drilling Ahead, p.3.

PRODUCTS

Traveling block. The LeTourneau Ellis Williams Company (LEWCO) added to its product line an 8-sheave traveling block capable of sustaining a static load of 1,000 tons. It is manufactured to API 8C standards and in accordance with the certification requirements of the ABS and DNV. The block’s sheaves have an outer diameter of 72 inches and can accommodate a 1 7/8-in. or 1 3/4-in. wire line.

Non-hazardous labeling. Jet Lube’s KOPR-KOTE thread compound was recently exempted from being marked as a marine pollutant when transported via cargo vessel. The manufacturer claims the product is the first and only premium grade copper thread compound to achieve approval from the Associate Administrator for Hazardous Material Safety. This rating will prevent an increase in shipping costs when using the premium grade compound, according to the company.

Mud resistant drilling compound. Jet Lube’s EXTREME drilling compound protects tool joints, drill collars and other downhole tools used in invert or high pH drilling fluids operations. It adheres well to wet joints and provides consistent rig floor make-up and stability over a wide temperature range.