GlobalSantaFe’s Rose retires. Robert E Rose, Chairman of GlobalSantaFe, retired from his role as Chairman effective March 31 but will remain as a non-executive Chairman of the Board. “It has been a privilege leading the company,” Mr Rose said. “As I enter a new phase in my career I am confident that Jon Marshall, together with the rest of GlobalSantaFe’s management and employees, all share a commitment to excellence and are on track to deliver superior long-term shareholder value.” Mr Rose engineered the merger of Global Marine and Santa Fe Corporation and he became Chairman of the combined company upon the closing of that transaction in November 2001.

Grant Prideco realigns unit. Grant Prideco realigned its Tubular Technology and Services business unit, integrating its Marine Products and Services business unit and its XL Systems product line as part of the company’s strategy to focus on its core drill pipe, drill bit, and tubular businesses. David Black was appointed President of Tubular Technology. He was formerly Vice President - Operations for ReedHycalog since its acquisition by Grant Prideco in December 2002. Mr Black replaces Marshall Danby, who is retiring as President of Tubular Technology and Curtis Burton, previously President of Marine Products and Services, who left the company.

BJ Tubular announces promotion. Gary Young was promoted to area operations manager - Latin America for BJ Tubular Services, responsible for overseeing all BJ Tubular Services activities in the region including financial, operational, quality assessment matters and managing the division’s bases in Trinidad, Macae and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He will also continue his ongoing management of several of the division’s contracts in Brazil and Trinidad.

IDM modernizes drilling rigs. IDM Equipment Ltd recently entered into a joint venture with Industrial Electric Rigs (IER) of Canada to re-power 12 drilling rigs in Algeria. The rigs, part of Sonatrach’s Enterprise Nationale des Travaux aux Puits, are to be modernized with new power and control systems. Each rig power package includes four 1320 hp Caterpillar diesel engine-generators, a 320 kW emergency generator and an electronic SCR power control system. The project is worth $27.5 million.

ABB Vetco Gray sets record. ABB Vetco Gray set a new water depth record for a marine drilling riser. A 21-in. HMF flanged connection drilling riser system was used by ChevronTexaco to drill a well in 10,011 ft of water in the Gulf of Mexico. The complete marine drilling riser system is a Class F riser rated to 2.5 million lbs of tensile capacity and includes all components from the spider and gimbal assemblies, the 60-in CSO (Complete Shut-Off) diverter, the tensioner ring, flex joints and telescopic joints to the HD H-4 connector at the top of the BOP stack. The ABB Vetco Gray super heavy duty SHD H-4 hydraulic wellhead connector, designed for deepwater applications, was also used on this well.

Fracturing fluids. Baker Oil Tools has developed B9 Emerald FRAQ™, the first fracturing fluid to combine superior performance with benign environmental effects such as low toxicity and biodegradability, making the fluid ideal for offshore use. The company started development of the fluid with a basic guar polymer similar to that used as a thickening agent for foods such as hot sauce and ice cream. B9 emerald FRAQ meets and exceeds current Gulf of Mexico offshore permitted waste fluid discharge regulations for well treatment fluids set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), specified in the Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR Part 435. With less than 29 mg/l of hexane extractable material (HEM), oil and grease content, it satisfies the EPA’s definition of “oil and gas free” for well treating fluids. The EPA regulations do not establish a discharge permit standard for toxicity for well treatment fluids. However, with the B9 Emerald FRAQ fluid systems very low toxicity (less than 3%) the fluid also meets and exceeds the 40 CFR Part 435 standards set for drilling fluids. B9 Emerald FRAQ fluid biodegrades to more than 60% in 28 days as tested by the OECD guidelines, meeting or exceeding this standard. The EPA regulatory classifications for offshore well treatment fluids do not specify a toxicity level or a requirement to be biodegradable.