



Keppel FELS continues to rake in rig orders

KEPPEL FELS IN Singapore has received orders totaling seven jackups since the end of January. Three other jackup orders were announced earlier this year (see March/April 2005 DRILLING CONTRACTOR, p 57). In the latest spate of orders, **A P Moller-Maersk** contracted with Keppel FELS for four jackups worth more than S\$990 million. The rigs are **CJ 50** designs from **Marine Structure Consultants** and will have the capability of drilling to 30,000 ft in up to 350 ft of water. The first rig is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter 2007 with the remaining three to be delivered in half-yearly intervals thereafter.

In another rig order, **Odfjell Invest** ordered a KFELS B Class jackup from Keppel FELS at a cost of US\$121 million. The contract follows the company's exercise of an option when it signed the contract for the first rig in March 2004. This

latest rig is scheduled for delivery in the second quarter 2007. The rig is rated to drill to 30,000 ft in 350 ft of water. With this order Keppel FELS has 10 KFELS Class B units under construction and five others that have been delivered since introduction of the design in 2000.

ENSCO International also ordered a new high-performance jackup at Keppel FELS for a price of approximately US\$117 million. The rig will be a replacement for the ENSCO 64 that was heavily damaged by Hurricane Ivan in the Gulf of Mexico. The new rig is scheduled for delivery in the first quarter 2007. The rig, to be named ENSCO 108, is a KFELS MOD V (B) design modified to ENSCO's specifications.

Finally, **Seatankers Management** ordered a KFELS Class B jackup for a cost of US\$128 million. The rig can work in up to 400 ft of water. ■

Atwood contracts semisubmersibles

ATWOOD OCEANICS contracted the Southern Cross to **BG International**, **Iramco** and **AGIP** to drill one well for each company in the Mediterranean Sea. The BG and Iramco contracts call for a dayrate of \$60,000 while the AGIP contract is approximately \$73,000. The AGIP contract also provides for an option well. The contracts provide for a combined mobilization fee and other lump sum advance payments of approximately \$9 million.

The Atwood Eagle, currently working for **Woodside** off Australia, now includes seven firm wells following the operator's exercise of three option wells. All seven wells have a dayrate ranging from \$89,000-\$109,000 depending upon water depth. Woodside also has options for three additional wells with a dayrate of approximately \$180,000 for the first option well and \$160,000 for the last two option wells. Upon completion of the current Woodside program estimated in Sep-

tember, the rig will drill one firm well for **BHP Billiton** with BHP having an option to drill one additional well. If Woodside exercises its three option wells, the rig will return to Woodside after BHP's firm and option well program before commencing BHP's second commitment of eight firm wells and four option wells. If all option wells are drilled the combined programs could extend into 2007. The dayrate for BHP's eight firm well is approximately \$160,000 and \$170,000 for the option wells. ■

Diamond purchases semi

DIAMOND OFFSHORE WILL acquire the semisubmersible **Enserch Garden Banks** and related equipment from owner **Newfield Exploration Gulf Coast** and partner for \$20 million. The rig has been stacked in Galveston since its retirement from service as a drilling and production unit. It was last upgraded in 1995 by a previous owner. ■

Noble Corporation awarded Safety in Seas Award

NOBLE CORPORATION WAS awarded the 2005 National Ocean Industries Association (NOIA) Safety in Seas Award that recognizes their outstanding contribution to the improvement of safe operating procedures in the ocean industries. The company was selected in recognition of its comprehensive system of linking health, safety and environment practices with overall business performance. This "Noble Way Management System" ensures that HSE principles are incorporated into day-to-day practices for everyone at the company. The program has reduced lost-time and recordable incidents for the past 11 consecutive years. In 2004, 93% of Noble's rig fleet operated without a lost-time incident.

Noble also was a winner in the Minerals Management Service (MMS) 2004 District Safety Award for Excellence (SAFE) in the Gulf of Mexico. Noble Drilling (US) was awarded the SAFE award for drilling contractors in the Houma and Lafayette MMS districts.

ROWAN, DIAMOND HONORED

Rowan Companies was awarded the SAFE award in the Lake Charles District and **Diamond Offshore** received the award from the Lake Jackson District.

The SAFE program recognizes and commends those operating companies that expend extra effort and conduct their operations in a safe manner, adhering to all regulatory requirements, employing trained and motivated personnel and taking extra steps to enhance the safety of operations. ■

Rowan announces drilling contracts for deep wells

ROWAN'S SECOND TARZAN Class rig, the **Bob Keller**, was awarded a contract from **McMoRan** for a deep well in the Gulf of Mexico. The well is expected to commence in September and last about seven months. Rowan estimates revenues from this contract will be about \$20 million. The rig is presently under construction.

The Rowan Gorilla VI has been contracted for two wells on the Grand Banks of Newfoundland with an option for a third well. The first well is expected to begin in mid-2005 and is expected to run until December 2005. ■