

Sedco Forex Rig 8 completes 10 years in Oman without an LTA

John Frankish, Sedco
Forex

SEDCO FOREX RIG 8 recently completed 10 years without a lost-time accident. The rig was designed and built specifically to work in the deserts of Oman. The 1,000-hp rig comprises a minimum number of loads which, coupled with an innovative design, allow it to move



again been under contract with PDO. A further 110,000 m have been drilled over 71 wells whilst moving 2,400 km. The rig achieved the significant milestone of 10 years work without an LTA in October 1999.

Whilst there is no doubt that the continuity of crew and geographical location has played an



Crew and client teamwork credited for milestone: Teamwork between the crew of Sedco Forex Rig 8 and its clients played an important role in operating an enviable 10 years without an LTA.

in-field in as little as 6 hours. Currently, 70% of the crew are Omani nationals.

Following construction, Rig 8 spudded its first well with **Petroleum Development Oman** on 24 July 1989 at Jawdah in the south of Oman. During a contractual period of 6 years, the rig drilled 116 wells for a total of 150,000 m whilst moving 2,740 km between wells. The rig suffered no LTIs during this period to the end of contract in June 1995.

In September 1995, the rig went to work for **Occidental of Oman** for 6 months, drilling 6 wells, again without an LTI.

From April 1996 to date, Rig 8 has

important part in achieving this record, the crew and client team work and commitment to HSE has been second to none—without the latter, the record could never have been achieved.

The HSE tools instrumental in helping the crew achieve this record have been the Sedco Forex HSE training systems, the **DuPont STOP** system and the commitment of all supervisors to spend 15 minutes every day to improve safety.

This underscores our belief that a viable, comprehensive QHSE management system integrated into our operations is indeed a best business practice. ■



Newly launched: Saipem's Scarabeo 7 was recently christened. The converted semi is capable of drilling in water depths to 1,500 m.

Deepwater Scarabeo 7 semi christened in Italy

SAIPEM RECENTLY CHRISTENED its latest deepwater semi Scarabeo 7 at the Fincantieri yard in Palermo, Italy. The moored conversion can operate in water depths to 1,500 m.

The unit is designed to allow maximum stability in waves up to 15 m. The mooring system employs 8 anchors and a computerized thruster assistance system to offset and correct the effect of waves and currents in real time.

Wells can be drilled from the semi to depths beyond 7,500 m, according to Saipem. ■

UTI buys Schneider Drilling

UTI ENERGY RECENTLY signed a definitive agreement to acquire the drilling assets of East Texas contractor **Schneider Drilling Corp** for \$7.5 million cash. UTI gets 3 marketable land rigs and major components for 2 more units, as well as 70,000 ft of drill pipe and spare equipment and parts. ■

The rigs have depth capacities of 16,000-20,000 ft.

Rowan Gorilla VII financed with MARAD guarantee

ROWAN COMPANIES has obtained a Title XI guarantee from the **Maritime Administration (MARAD)** of the **US Department of Transportation** associated with the financing of up to \$185 million for construction and design of the jackup rig Rowan Gorilla VII. ■