

Smedvig West Venture drills first well on Troll West Gas Province in North Sea

West Venture, the new **Smedvig Offshore AS** semisubmersible has completed the drilling of an observation well for **Norsk Hydro** on the Troll West Gas Province. Total depth was 1,780 m.

Dual subsea operations were performed from each derrick while drilling the top hole sections. The auxiliary rig supported operations for the main rig during the remaining drilling operations.

After completing the first well, West Venture moved to drill the first horizontal production well from a template in the northern part of the Troll West Gas Province.

Another Smedvig rig, drillship West Navion, discovered the Svale oil field in the North Sea with its maiden well. The well was drilled for **Statoil**.

After completing its first well, the vessel moved to drill an exploration well for



West Venture, Smedvig's new semisubmersible, finished its first well in the North Sea in early May.

BP Amoco on the Skarv field. It was then scheduled to set sail in mid June for Greenland to drill a well for **Statoil** on the Fylla prospect.

That job is estimated to take about 2½ months. ■

Refurbished Parker Rig 249 will soon begin drilling in Tengiz field for Tengizchevroil

Parker Drilling Company's Rig 249 is scheduled to begin drilling in Kazakhstan's Tengiz field in August after undergoing modification at **Partech**, Parker's manufacturing facility in New Iberia, La.

The rig is under a long-term agreement with **Tengizchevroil (TCO)**, the partnership comprised of **Chevron, Exxon Mobil, KazakhOil, and Lukoil**.

During the modification, all major rig components and systems were either replaced or refurbished. A winterization package was added to the rig for the conditions in Kazakhstan.

Rig 249 is capable of drilling to more than 30,000 ft and features cylindrical mud tanks and a special system designed to move the rig to a new location within 3 days.

Parker began providing support and labor for two rigs owned by TCO in 1993. In 1997 the contract was extended and a Parker rig was added. Rig 249 is the second Parker-owned rig provided as part of the long-term agreement.

A third Parker rig, a new build, is scheduled to begin drilling in Tengiz for TCO in January 2001. ■

Pride makes acquisition

Pride International Inc has acquired **Servicios Especiales San Antonio SA** from **Perez SA** for \$78 million and the assumption of \$17 million in debt.

San Antonio provides a variety of oil-field services to customers in Argentina, Venezuela, Bolivia, and Peru.

Pride provides onshore and offshore drilling, workover and related services in more than 20 countries and operates a fleet of 291 rigs. ■

Chiles Offshore orders new deepwater jackup

A subsidiary of **Chiles Offshore LLC** has entered into an agreement with **Keppel FELS Ltd (KEPPEL)** in Singapore to build a cantilevered jack-up of the KFELS MOD V "B" design. Construction cost is estimated at \$110 million, not including equipment furnished by the owner. The MOD V "B" is a proprietary design of Keppel modeled on the MOD V harsh environment jack-ups and will be delivered with a leg length between 475 and 545 ft.

C B Choo, Chairman and Managing Director of Keppel said, "This order marks the launch of a new rig design intended to ultimately replace the generation of jackups built in the 1970s." ■

Noble in JV with CROSCO

Noble Drilling Corp has announced the formation of a joint venture with **Integrated Drilling & Well Services Co (CROSCO)**, a subsidiary of **INA**, Zagreb, Croatia.

The joint venture, in which each partner owns 50%, owns and operates the Panon, a 300-ft jackup.

Noble will manage the upgrade, marketing and operation of the rig, and CROSCO will provide key operations and technical personnel, including a significant portion of the rig crews.

Following its planned mobilization from the Mediterranean to the Arabian Gulf, the rig will be upgraded from its current slot configuration to a cantilevered unit.

The venture expects the Panon to be available for service in early 2001, at which time it will "pursue contract opportunities worldwide." ■

KCA delivers cemented monobore sidetrack

KCA Drilling (KCA) has successfully delivered the first cemented monobore completions in the North Sea.

The idea of a cemented completion is to combine the liner and completion in one string and to cement this into place.

"Since no liner hanger, cleanout or packer is required the potential savings are in the region of at least £500-1 million," said Maurice White, Managing

Director. "With refinement of the process, the first sub million pound sidetrack may soon be possible."

Shell Expro's Cormorant Alpha well CA28 sidetrack 2 was the first well to use the cemented completion and well CA12 sidetrack 1 was the second well to use the procedure.

"These wells did have teething troubles, particularly with the cementing, but

were still delivered under time and budget," said Mr White.

North Cormorant wells NC01 and NC26 have since used the lessons learned from Cormorant Alpha to deliver cemented monobores in record time."

The potential downsides of this technology such as remedial cementation and the possibility of failing to get the string to TD due to hole problems, have previously prevented companies from using the procedure. ■

Maersk builds a harsh environment jackup

Maersk Contractors plans to deliver its new MSC CJ 70 150MC ultra harsh environment jackup rig in the summer of 2002.

The design is based on operating experience from the ultra harsh environment jackup Maersk Gallant.

The new rig will have enhanced capacities and capabilities with special emphasis on features that will reduce the non-productive time during drilling operations.

By paying special attention to reducing non-productive time, Maersk expects to

be able to improve drilling performance by as much as 27% compared to that of a typical high performance jackup rig in the North Sea.

The new unit will be capable of year round operation in the North Sea in water depths to 150 m.

Dual pipe handling capabilities will allow drilling to continue while a string of casing is being made up or a bottom-hole assembly is assembled or disassembled. Drilling and workover can be done through a surface or subsea BOP system. ■

Noble's Lynda Bossler gets ISO 14001 certification

Det Norske Veritas has certified Noble Drilling Co's North Sea jackup Lynda Bossler as conforming to ISO 14001. The rig is the first mobile offshore drilling unit in the North Sea to be recognized as meeting the standard.

ISO 14001 refers to the voluntary standards developed by the International Standards Organization to specifically address crucial aspects of environmental management and protection.

The Lynda Bossler is currently working for Clyde Petroleum offshore The Netherlands. ■

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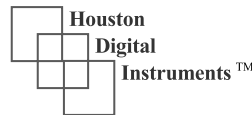
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