

CONTRACTOR NEWS

New drillship is at work

Transocean Sedco Forex Inc in late February announced that the ultradeep water drillship Discoverer Deep Seas has completed acceptance testing and has begun a 5-year contract valued at about \$374 million for **Chevron USA Production Co** in the US Gulf of Mexico. The vessel is the third Discoverer Enterprise class drillship to join the Transocean fleet, following the delivery of the Discoverer Spirit to **Unocal** in September 2000 and the Discoverer Enterprise to **BP** in December 1999.

All 3 rigs are designed to drill in water depths to 10,000 ft and are outfitted with the company's patented dual activity drilling system that can provide up to a 40% improvement in deepwater well construction efficiency. ■

PPL will build SF jackups

Santa Fe International Corp announced it has executed a Letter of Award with **PPL Shipyard PTE Ltd** of Singapore for the construction of 2 JU 2000 design high performance jackup rigs.

The agreement includes options for additional jackup units. The first two will cost about \$125 million each.

Construction of each will take about 24 months; construction of the second unit will begin about 12 months into the building of the first unit.

The units can drill in 400 ft of water in moderate environments and in 350 ft depths in harsh environments. ■

Parker to move to Houston

Parker Drilling Co will relocate its corporate headquarters from Tulsa to Houston this summer, leaving a small regional office in Tulsa.

Parker sold its US land rig assets over the past 2 years and now is focused on the offshore Gulf of Mexico barge, platform and jackup rig business. And with its global focus and international operations, Parker felt the move would be advantageous because the company's GOM and international customer base is located in Houston.

Parker's corporate offices have been in Tulsa since the company's inception in 1934. ■

H&P to build 15 more new FlexRigs by 2003

The Board of Directors of **Helmerich & Payne Inc** approved in March the construction of an additional 15 new FlexRigs, H&P's highly mobile 8-18,000-ft land rig.

H&P will take delivery of the new electric rigs from March 2002 to February 2003. H&P's first order of 6 FlexRigs was completed in 1999.

Its current construction program will complete 12 new FlexRigs by February 2002. The new rigs in the latest group will cost about \$9 million each.

"Our FlexRig design has gained wide customer acceptance by delivering improved rig productivity," said **Hans Helmerich**, President and CEO.

"Higher productivity is captured

through faster rig moves, a patented round mud tank system, reduced drilling time by using a new generation of controls and instrumentation and improved versatility"

The original 6 FlexRigs are presently working while 6 rigs of the current order of 12 are committed on 2-year and 3-year firm term contracts, said H&P.

The company's entire fleet has worked at an average 96% activity since 1994.

H&P also has contracted 3 deep land rigs recently returned from South America. Two more deep land rigs were scheduled to be returned from South America by mid-April.

The company's land rig fleet will total 65 rigs by December 2002. ■

Diamond Offshore, Ocean Spur receive SAFE

Diamond Offshore Drilling Inc announced that the **US Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS)** Lake Charles District has awarded the company and its rig, the Ocean Spur, the District's 2000 Safety Award For Excellence (SAFE) for drilling contractors.

The SAFE award is based on several factors. Criteria considered include operational safety, rig maintenance, pollution prevention and regulatory compliance.

"This honor is a reflection of our pledge to operate our rigs safely while protecting our environment," said **Larry Dickerson**, President and Chief Operating Officer.

"This award is a tribute to the specific efforts of our Ocean Spur crews and also to our fleet-wide commitment to safety



Ocean Spur and Diamond Offshore Drilling recently received the MMS Lake Charles District Safety Award For Excellence (SAFE).

and environmental protection around the world."

The Lake Charles District conducted 11 complete inspections of the Ocean Spur without any incidents of noncompliance. "All inspections exceeded our expectations," explained **Milford Cole**, Chief Inspector, Lake Charles District.

This is Diamond Offshore's 10th District SAFE award. ■