OTC2001 looks at what works and what to expect

MORE THAN 300 TECHNICAL presentations and two general interest sessions at OTC2001 explored the most relevant trends and issues affecting industry professionals. The general sessions focused on two questions facing the industry: How to make money in ultradeep water and what the internet will do for—or to—the petroleum industry.

IADC is an Endorsing Organization of OTC2001.

Eight timely topical luncheons and the second OTC Global Energy Summit were other highlights of the 2001 Offshore Technology Conference, 30 April-3 May in Houston.

"As the world's leading conference on offshore upstream oil and gas technology, OTC 2001 provides the answers to 'how' and 'when.' It conveys a clear understanding of what works today and what the possibilities of tomorrow can become," said **Wolfgang E Schollnberger**, Technology Vice President, **BP**, and OTC 2001 General Chairman.

Dr **Rilwanu Lukman**, Nigerian Presidential Advisor on Petroleum and Energy and former OPEC Secretary General, presented the keynote address at the OTC Awards Luncheon.

TWO KEY QUESTIONS

The two general sessions explored answers to two questions uppermost in the minds of many offshore professionals and corporate financial managers: "Commercialization of the Ultradeep: What Will it Take?" and "e-Business Impact on the Petroleum Industry: Evolution or Revolution?"

A panel led by **Andrew J Szescila**, COO, **Baker Hughes**, addressed the technical and operational barriers that must be overcome and the economic targets that must be met to make ultradeep development feasible and profitable.

Another panel of experts moderated by **Art J Schroeder Jr**, President and CEO, **Energy Valley**, discussed when and how e-business initiatives are likely to become profitable in E&P.

Recent studies predict that e-business will cut E&P industry operating costs by $4-6 billion/year in the short to medium term through applications connectivity, bandwidth availability, and knowledge management.

The panel focused on how e-business cost savings, efficiencies and newly enabled processes are likely to impact petroleum operations and technology.

OTC2001
OFFSHORE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

TECHNICAL RANGE

The 300 papers presented at OTC2001 covered the application of a broad range of technology in projects around the world and lessons learned from operating in a wide variety of environments.

Much of the focus was on deepwater technology, operations and economics.

Some of the sessions shared project experience, including those on the Diana/Hoover project, the Terra Nova project and the Cantarell project. Another session explored the Ekofisk life extension project.

A session devoted entirely to drilling included papers titled:

- Search for a viable multilateral solution for a very marginal heavy oil field;
- Gravity-based orientation device for premilled multilateral window joints;
- Holistic approach to underbalanced drilling for ultimate reservoir recovery;
- Underbalanced drilling application in highly fractured carbonate formation;
- Underbalanced drilling in unconsolidated, low gravity oil reservoirs in Latin America;
- A new technique for successfully casing off differentially pressured zones with solid expandable tubulars.

TOPICAL LUNCHEONS

Topical Luncheons at OTC 2001 discussed some of the key issues facing the offshore industry and explored the technology that can help meet the challenges.

"Terra Nova—Contributing to Newfoundland's Emerging Offshore Oil Industry," was the focus of a presenta-

tion by **Gary Bruce**, Vice President, Offshore Development and Operations, **Petro-Canada**. Terra Nova is the first floating production, storage, and offload (FPSO) system to operate in North American waters and the first to operate in a harsh North Atlantic environment with sea ice and icebergs.

"Whale-Friendly Seismic: A Scientific and Environmentally Responsible Approach to Seismic Data Acquisition," was discussed by **Jack Caldwell**, Senior Scientist, **Geco-Prakla**. He explored how the oil industry, specifically the seismic segment, impacts noise in the oceans and reviewed the state of knowledge of the effect of noise on marine mammals.

"Dual-Activity Drilling: Past Year's Experience," was shared by **Dennis Heagney**, Executive Vice President, **Transocean Sedco Forex**. In 1995, engineering and operations personnel conceived the idea of dual activity drilling, a concept that became reality in December 1999 when the first of 3 dual activity rigs, the Discoverer Enterprise, began operations for BP in the Gulf of Mexico.

"Solving Our Energy Crisis: The Important Role Which the Offshore Oil and Gas Industry Must Play," was outlined by **Matthew R Simmons**, President, **Simmons & Company International**. He said the solution to our energy crisis comes through expanding the capacity to create more energy while also beginning to rebuild our aging infrastructure.

"Strategic Retention and Magnetic Recruiting: How Halliburton Delivers the Best People in a Tight Labor Market," was presented by **Margaret Carriere**, Vice President, Human Resources, **Halliburton**. The cyclical nature of the oil and gas industry and an ever-tightening labor market have made traditional methods of attracting and retaining top employees increasingly ineffective. Ms Carriere explained how Halliburton has met that challenge.

"Deepwater and Other Trends in the Gulf of Mexico and New Plans in the Eastern Gulf," were discussed by **Chris Oynes**, Regional Director, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, **US Minerals Management Service**. New geologic ventures continue to unfold in deepwater regions, meaning the long-term resurgence of the Gulf of Mexico appears fruitful.

"Evolution of Subsea Production Systems," was the focus of the presentation by **Dalton Thomas**, President, **Cameron**. Mr Thomas also discussed the critical technical and commercial issues that will guide its continuing development in the future, and subsea tree and control systems technologies.

"An Independent in Deepwater West Africa," was the subject of a presentation by **Gene Van Dyke**, President, **Vanco Energy Company**.

Vanco has emerged as a leader in West Africa deepwater exploration, holding 25 million gross acres in water depths as great as 10,000 ft.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The OTC 2001 Awards Luncheon each year recognizes an individual and a company, organization or institution for distinct and unique achievement in, or outstanding contributions to, the advancement of offshore technology.

This year's recipient of the Distinguished Achievement Award for Individuals is **Howard L Shatto Jr**, **Shatto Engineering**.

His 55-year career has led to important milestones in offshore drilling and production.

In 1960, he conceived the world's first automatic control for dynamic positioning of **Shell**'s core drillship, Eureka. Mr Shatto also was part of a group of engineers who designed the first subsea wellheads using remotely operated vehicles (ROV).

He holds 35 patents and continues as consultant with major oil companies and deepwater contractors. In 2000, he was inducted as pioneer in the Offshore Energy Center Hall of Fame.

The 2001 OTC Distinguished Achievement Award for Companies, Organization and Institutions was presented to Petrobras for its Roncador field development. Roncador was recognized for outstanding advancements in deepwater technology and economics.