



IADC CONNECTION

IADC appoints European operations director

Dominic Cattini was appointed IADC Director, European Operations effective April 1. He will be based in London. Mr Cattini's most recent assignment was Head of Strategic Policy and Advice for the State Supervision of Mines, the primary regulatory agency for hydrocarbon exploration and development in The Netherlands. Prior to that he was Manager of Health, Safety and Environment for Ultramar Exploration Ltd in London, and Principal Engineer for British Gas plc. He is a graduate of St Aloysius College in

London (Applied Mathematics, Pure Mathematics and Physics); City University, London (BSc Electrical and Electronic Engineering); Southwark College, London; and Technical University of Delft, The Netherlands.

Additionally, he has worked with the Dutch regulatory authority (SSM) and the International Regulators Forum (IRF) as well as the North Sea Offshore Authorities Forum (NOSAF) and the European Union's Safety and Health Commission for Mines and other Extractive Industries. ■

S Arabian Chapter officers

The IADC Southern Arabian Peninsula Chapter recently elected new officers as follows:

- Chairman, **Mike Derbyshire**, ITM Pride Foramer;
- Vice Chairman Dubai, **Niels Espeland**, KCA Deutag;
- Vice Chairman Abu Dhabi, **Nouraddine Hadj-Moussa**, National Drilling Company;
- Vice Chairman Qatar, **Jim Shetter**, Noble Drilling;
- Vice Chairman Oman, **Pat O'Shaughnessy**, National Drilling & Services Company;
- Vice Chairman, Yemen, **Owen Frail**, Nabors;
- Treasurer, **David Muller**, Safar;
- Secretary, **Lester Carson**, Sigma Engineering Works. ■



CONTRACTOR NEWS

Noble expands fleet with jackup purchases

Noble Corporation bought two jackups and has options to purchase two additional jackups. The company bought the Trident III and the Dhabi II from a subsidiary of **Schlumberger Limited** for a total price of \$95 million in an all-cash transaction. The Trident III is working offshore UAE under a long-term contract with Dubai Petroleum that expires in January 2004. The Dhabi II is also working offshore the UAE for Abu Dhabi Oil Company under a contract that expires in July 2004.

Additionally, Noble has an option agree-

ment to purchase the Trident VXIII and the Trident XIX from Schlumberger. Noble paid \$24.9 million for the options. If they are exercised, Noble would pay an additional \$58.1 million for the rigs. Noble's right to exercise the options and acquire the rigs will commence when the rigs have completed their current contracts and have been mobilized to the UAE, which is expected to occur in May 2003 for the Trident XVIII and in July 2003 for the Trident XIX.

Noble's Middle East fleet would total 11 with these two purchases and options. ■

Tesco completes first well under casing drilling contract

Tesco's Rig Alpha successfully completed its first well in the South Texas Lobo field for ConocoPhillips. This is the first of three such rigs to be delivered under the contract for casing drilling services. The rigs are substantially smaller and equipped with approximately half the horsepower found on conventional rigs of equivalent depth capacity due to the fact that they are seldom required to trip pipe.

Tesco also was contracted by a major independent operator to apply Casing Drilling technology to continuous coring operations. **Driller's Technology Corp** will provide a Tesco-built Casing Drilling rig for the contract. Tesco also is in discussion with operators interested in using the technology for continuous coring in coal bed methane and methane hydrate projects. ■

KCA Deutag contracts

KCA Deutag Drilling's Rig T-57 was recently contracted by Pan Ocean Oil Corp for a period of two years with extension options for drilling in Nigeria. The contract began in the fourth quarter 2002. KCA Deutag also won a contract to supply a new rig for the Sakhalin-1 project on Sakhalin Island. The main contract for the drilling package fabrication was awarded to Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI). KCA Deutag subsequently secured the subcontract for the detailed design of the drilling facilities. The design project will be executed in Houston followed by construction support and commissioning at HHI's Ulsan yard. The new drilling package will be installed on a modified concrete and steel structure formerly owned by Global Marine and used offshore Alaska. ■

Diamond buys semi

Diamond Offshore bought the semisubmersible West Vanguard for \$68.5 million from **Smedvig Rig AS**. The agreement provides that the rig will be bareboat chartered to a Smedvig affiliate for a period anticipated to expire during the second quarter 2003. ■

Pride contract

Pride International's semisubmersible Pride Saouth Pacific was contracted for work offshore Angola by a subsidiary of ExxonMobil. The contract is for approximately one year. With this contract, Pride's deepwater assets are 100% committed during 2003. ■