

Published by  
Drilling Contractor Publications Inc  
15810 Park Ten Place, Suite 222  
Houston, TX 77084 USA

1/281 578 7171; drilling.contractor@iadc.org  
fax, 1/281 398 7602 or 1/281 578 0589  
<http://iadc.org/dcpi.htm>

#### IADC Officers

Lawrence R Dickerson, Chairman  
Marion M Woolie, Vice Chairman  
Ed Kautz, Secretary-Treasurer  
Dr Lee Hunt, President

Brian T Petty, Sr Vice President-Government Affairs

#### DCPI Officers & Directors

Gary W Casswell, Chairman  
Dr Lee Hunt, President  
Mike Killalea, Vice President  
Marion M Woolie, Secretary-Treasurer  
Lawrence R Dickerson, Director  
C Stedman Garber Jr, Director

#### Editorial Contributors

Mike Killalea, Editor & Publisher  
Jerry Greenberg, Contributing Editor  
Donna L Woolley, Production/Administrative Asst  
Norman V Edwards, Middle East/Asian Affairs  
Ken Fischer, Operations  
Joe Hurt, HSE, Land Affairs  
Steve Kropla, Accreditation Programs  
Alan Spackman, Offshore Affairs

DRILLING CONTRACTOR (ISSN 0046-0702) is issued 6 times per year by Drilling Contractor Publications Inc as an enclosure with *Oil & Gas Journal*. Subscriptions are free to operational personnel employed by contract-drilling firms or by major or independent oil companies. Subscription prices are \$41 per year, US; \$53, outside the US (\$91 airmail). Publisher reserves the right to refuse non-qualified subscriptions.

For advertising rates or information, call DRILLING CONTRACTOR, your local *Oil & Gas Journal* sales office or check our website at <http://iadc.org/dcpi.htm>.

**POSTMASTER:** Please send address changes to *Oil & Gas Journal*, Box 2002, Tulsa, Okla, 74101. Printed in the USA.

## COVER

*One of Weatherford's underbalanced drilling units is working a UB operation in Alberta, Canada. A report on UB operations in Oman and an update on IADC's UBO Committee begins on page 20. Some of the latest technology in down-hole tools and well completions is reviewed beginning on page 26. Cover photo is courtesy of Weatherford International.*

# DRILLING CONTRACTOR



## CAPITAL WIRELINES

# IADC, Key Energy efforts lead to \$8 MM US Labor Dept grant for drilling, well servicing training

**Brian T Petty, Senior Vice President-Government Affairs**

**US Federal Oilfield Training Funds (Washington)** – In the first few weeks of the **Bush Administration**, IADC was contacted in Washington by the **US Department of Labor (DOL)** to see whether the drilling industry would welcome federal funds to train oilfield hands. IADC agreed to provide the Department with the opportunity to describe its proposal and to gauge, geographically, where the need was greatest. Subsequently, **DOL Deputy Assistant Secretary David Dye** came to IADC conferences in Houston and Lafayette in 2001 and 2002 to discuss the proposal. The fruit of that effort is an \$8 million pilot program to train a broad array of drilling, well servicing and related trades.

A grant under the program was recently unveiled in a ceremony at DOL headquarters by **US Senator Pete Domenici (R-N M)** and **US Department of Labor Secretary Elaine Chao**, aimed at boosting the oilfield labor pool. They announced the award of \$2.17 million in Labor Department funds to support the development of an energy based Business and Industrial Training Center at San Juan College in Farmington, New Mexico. Domenici, chairman of the US Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, explained the grant will be used to fund petroleum technology training and placement programs to support industry needs in New Mexico and the adjacent Four Corners area. The program will also feature basic educational materials with Navajo- and Spanish-speaking instructors, and is expected to lead to 300 full-time jobs.

The program will provide education, training and job-placement assistance involving nontraditional classrooms for hands-on training on actual industrial equipment—including a workover rig donated by **Key Energy Services**—and technical training in industrial safety, drilling and well service, gas compression technician skills, plant operations, commercial driving skills, and heavy equipment operation. The program will also offer short-term fast track job training, one-year certification programs, and employment assistance. Sen Domenici noted that the training program is well positioned to take advantage of the rich oil and gas fields in the Four Corners area which provide abundant employment opportunities. The San Juan Basin is the third largest gas producing area in the United States, with oil and gas wells generating \$325 million annually in federal royalties.

Secretary Chao stated: “One of the sectors where we expect increasing demand for new workers is the energy industry. Currently, there is a severe shortage of skilled energy workers because the boom and bust cycle of the market has decimated this crucial workforce. It is clearly in the national interest to help remedy this situation and that’s why we’re announcing this grant today. This \$8 million job-training program is part of the President’s comprehensive plan to ensure that the nation has the energy – and the energy workers – it needs now and in the future. This training program will serve all major US oil and gas production regions, including the Southwest, Rocky Mountain, Great Plains, and Gulf Coast states as well as Alaska.”