

Nabors Rig 254 named Shell's land rig of the year



Nabors Drilling's Rig 254 was presented Shell's award for the 2006 Land Rig of the Year recently. The rig had zero recordable incidents in 2006.

NABORS DRILLING'S RIG 254 was recently named **Shell's** 2006 Land Rig of the Year. The award was presented at Shell's annual Global Rig Category Supplier Conference in Den Haag, Netherlands.

This was the second time in 3 years that a Nabors rig has won the award. Performance indicators considered in the selection include excellence for safety and environmental performance, operating efficiency and joint engagement and teamwork.

In giving the award to Rig 254, Shell highlighted its safety record of zero recordable incidents in 2006. The rig was designed to meet the challenges of Shell's growing operations in Wyoming's Pinedale Anticline.

"We are honored to have been recognized with this accomplishment and look forward to many more successful partnerships with Shell in the future," said **Joe Hudson**, president of Nabors Drilling USA. ♠

Oil production begins from Buzzard Field

BG GROUP AND its co-venturers have announced that oil production from the Buzzard Field in the UK North Sea began on 7 January. Buzzard is one of the largest field developments in the UK North Sea in more than a decade. With estimated recoverable reserves of more than 500 million bbls of oil equivalent, it has the potential to deliver about 10% of the UK's annual forecast oil demand at peak rates.

The field is operated by **Nexen Petroleum UK Ltd** and is located 100 km northeast of Aberdeen in the Outer Moray Firth, central North Sea. BG Group holds a 21.73% interest in the field, which has cost a total of £1.5 billion to develop. Peak production — expected this year — is forecast to be around 200,000 bbls of oil/day and 60 million cu ft of gas/day.

BG drilled the discovery well in May 2001. ♠

Anadarko discovers oil at Mission Deep

ANADARKO PETROLEUM CORP has announced an oil discovery at its Mission Deep prospect on Green Canyon block 955. The discovery well encountered more than 250 ft of net oil pay in the primary middle Miocene objective.

The well, in 7,300 ft of water, was drilled to a total depth of about 25,000 ft. Future plans include deepening the well to a secondary lower Tertiary objective and drilling a sidetrack well to further delineate the extent of the reservoir.

"Mission Deep is our 9th discovery out of 12 tests so far this year in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico, following up on last year's deepwater exploration program, in which we were successful on 5 of 9," said **Bob Daniels**, Anadarko's senior vice president of worldwide exploration.

Anadarko also recently announced it commenced oil production from the unitized CFD 11-6/CFD 12-1S development project in Bohai Bay, China. Development drilling is ongoing, with gross production expected to be 22,000 bbls of oil/day from 22 wells by mid-2007.

The development project straddles blocks 04/36 and 05/36 in Bohai Bay in about 75 ft of water. The project consists of a core-area gathering platform and 2 smaller unmanned satellite platforms, which are tied back about 13 km to the Hai Yang Shi You 112 floating production, storage and offloading vessel. ♠

Transocean semis awarded contracts

TRANSOCEAN ANNOUNCED THAT the Transocean Richardson has been awarded a 3-year contract for exploration and appraisal drilling offshore in global **Chevron** operating areas that may include southern Africa. The contract is expected to commence in July 2007, following completion of an existing contract offshore Angola. Revenues of about \$493 million are possible over the 3 years. The Transocean Richardson semi is capable of operating in water depths up to 5,000 ft.

The company also has announced that Sedco 703 was awarded a 1-year contract by a subsidiary of Australia's **Woodside**. The contract is expected to commence in August 2007. Revenues possible over the 1-year period is about \$159 million. The semi can operate in water depths up to 2,000 ft. ♠



Pride recently bought out its partner's interest in the Pride Portland, operating in Brazil.

Pride acquires 100% interest in 2 deepwater semis

PRIDE INTERNATIONAL recently announced the acquisition of its partner's interest in the joint venture companies that own the 2 deepwater semis Pride Rio de Janeiro and Pride Portland. This increases Pride's interest in the 2 rigs from 30% to 100%. Both rigs were built in 2004, are dynamically positioned and are capable of drilling in water depths up to 5,600 ft. They are currently operating in Brazil under contracts that expire in 2010.

The company also has reached agreement to extend an existing contract for its deepwater semi Pride North America, operating offshore Egypt, for 3 more years. It also reached agreement to operate the Pride Brazil, Pride Carlos Walter, Pride South Atlantic and Pride South America under 5-year agreements offshore Brazil. Expected aggregate dayrate revenues under these agreements total about \$2.1 billion. ♠

Dalma Energy purchases 4 new rigs, capping \$250 million expansion plan

DALMA ENERGY, AN Aabar subsidiary that operates 18 rigs, has invested US\$80 million to purchase 4 new rigs to capitalize on rapidly increasing demand for drilling services in the Middle East-North Africa region.



Khaled Ahmed Salem Al Ameri

The 4 new 2,000-hp rigs can drill to more than 20,000 ft. They were built in China, and delivery of all 4 is expected by the first quarter of 2007. The pur-

chase caps a US\$250 million fleet expansion plan that Dalma Energy undertook in October 2004. **Khaled Ahmed Salem Al Ameri**, director of Dalma Energy, announced, "We have achieved a rig utilization of 100% and doubled the size of our operations in less than 18 months since our acquisition by Aabar. This aggressive growth will continue."

To expand operations, Dalma Energy also recently opened offices in Libya.

The company has previously executed contracts with **Saudi Aramco**, **Petroleum Development Oman**, **Qatar Petroleum** and **Gujarat State Petroleum Corp.** ♠

KCA DEUTAG awarded several rig contracts

KCA DEUTAG HAS been awarded contracts worth more than US\$360 million in north and west Africa, for its 350-ft-rated jackup Neptune and 2 new Nomad Class land rigs being built by its subsidiary **Bentec**.

The Neptune's 3-year contract is valued at US\$225 million and expected to commence in the second quarter of 2007 at a dayrate of US\$190,000. It will be mobilized to West Africa from the Gulf of Mexico upon completion of its upgrade programme, expected in late February 2007.

In Algeria, **BP**, in association with **Sonatrach**, has awarded KCA DEUTAG a 1-year contract with

options for its new 1,500-hp Nomad Class rigs. It's due to commence in the fourth quarter of 2007 and is worth US\$32 million for the 2 rigs.

In Libya, KCA DEUTAG has been awarded a 3-year contract for its 3,000-hp T-202 land rig, which will be mobilized from Bangladesh. It's expected to commence in December 2007 and is valued at US\$45 million.

In Nigeria, KCA DEUTAG has been awarded 2 contracts, together worth about US\$50 million, from **Shell Petroleum Development Co.** The 2-year contract for the 1,000-hp T103 rig is expected to begin in May 2007, and the 2-year contract for the newly built 2,000-hp T209 is expected to begin in June 2007. ♠

Keppel FELS delivers 26 newbuilds, conversions in '06

IN 2006, **KEPPEL Offshore & Marine Ltd** completed and delivered 26 newbuilds and conversions totaling approximately US\$1.3 billion, on time or ahead of schedule and within budget. "At present, many shipyards worldwide are faced with high levels of activities, and Keppel is no exception," said **Tong Chong Heong**, Keppel managing director. "We are pleased to announce that our current projects for the year ahead are also progressing well. We will strive

to maintain our track record and deliver them to our customers' satisfaction."

In the past year, Keppel FELS delivered 6 jackups, 1 semisubmersible drilling tender and 1 upgraded semisubmersible. It also delivered 2 major floating production storage and offloading (FPSO) conversion projects, among other vessels. The company's first delivery for 2007 — for the FPSO Polvo — is on course to be delivered on time in February. ♠



Like other shipyards, Keppel FELS saw record activity levels in 2006.