

# PEOPLE, COMPANIES & PRODUCTS

## E. Lee Colley III takes post as Weatherford COO

WEATHERFORD INTERNATIONAL has announced the appointment of **E. Lee Colley III** as chief operating officer. In this newly created position, he will be responsible for the company's operations on a global basis.

Mr Colley has been with Weatherford for more than 10 years. Most recently, he was president of the completion and production systems division.

In conjunction with Mr Colley's appoint-

ment, the company will merge 2 existing divisions — evaluation, drilling and intervention, and completion and production systems — into a single operating group. The objective is to achieve a more streamlined delivery architecture with improved flexibility and efficiency.

**John King**, who has served as president of evaluation, drilling and intervention division since September 2005, has stepped down. ☐

## BP CEO John Browne to retire; Tony Hayward named as successor

BP has announced that **Lord John Browne** has decided to retire as CEO at the end of July 2007. **Tony Hayward**, currently BP's head of exploration and production, will succeed



John Browne

Lord Browne. During Lord Browne's tenure at BP, he presided over a five-fold increase in the company's profits to \$22.3 billion. "John Browne is the



Tony Hayward

greatest British businessman of his generation and has transformed BP into one of the biggest energy groups in the world," said **Peter Sutherland**, BP chairman. Dr Hayward has been chief operating officer of exploration and production since 2002. He holds a PH.D. in geology from the University of Edinburgh. ☐

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## Management changes announced at Rowan Companies

ROWAN COMPANIES recently announced several management changes. **John L Buvens** is now executive vice president of legal; **Mark Keller** is executive vice president of business development; **David P Russell** is executive vice president of drilling operations; **William H Wells** is vice president of finance and chief financial

officer; and **Melanie Trent** is corporate secretary and special assistant to the CEO. Each of these positions reports to CEO **Daniel F McNease**.

**Robert G Croyle** has retired as the company's vice chairman and chief administrative officer after more than 33 years of service. ☐

## Great Western Drilling Company celebrates 70 years in the field

GREAT WESTERN DRILLING Company, in Midland, Texas, is celebrating its 70th anniversary in the oil and gas industry. The company began in a 1-room building in Kermit, Texas, in 1936 with Rig No. 1. In 1952, it became the first drilling contractor in the Permian Basin to drill with gas as a circulating medium, and by 1956, Great Western had grown to 33 rotary

rigs and was operating 343 wells. It now has working interests in more than 400 producing properties. President **Bruce Brady** said the company is focusing on exploratory drilling with 3D seismic technology. "We are still drilling in areas where Great Western was drilling 70 years ago. The difference today is the use of 3D seismic, which helps identify stratigraphic targets," he said. ☐

## Pride names director to board

PRIDE INTERNATIONAL announced that **Kenneth M Burke** has been appointed to the board of directors and to the company's audit committee. Mr Burke is a retired partner of **Ernst & Young LLP**. ☐

## Al Mansoori recognized for health, safety achievements

AL MANSOORI SPECIALIZED Engineering (MSE), which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, recently received the health and safety award at the 2006 Excellence in Energy Awards, held under the patronage of **HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, UAE president and ruler of Abu Dhabi.

"Health and safety is core to our business, and it is a great honor to receive such recognition from our peers in the oil and gas industry," said MSE managing director **Nabil Alalawi**.



Nabil Alalawi

In 2006, the implementation of MSE's management system improved overall performance by achieving more than 4 million hours without a lost-time incident.

Separately, MSE has appointed a new general manager in Southeast Asia. In this role, **Stephen Maharaj** will develop MSE's recently expanded services in the region. The company intends to recruit locally and promote its specialist oilfield services. ☐

## Varel opens Lafayette office

VAREL INTERNATIONAL has opened a new office in Lafayette, La., to provide sales and service functions for customers operating in Louisiana and intercoastal waters along the Gulf of Mexico. Personnel appointed to this office include **Russell Cryer**, for executive sales; **Michelle Frederick**, for workover bit sales; and **Nick Pfister**, for field sales. ☐

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## Halliburton donates to school

HALLIBURTON ANNOUNCED it has pledged to give \$350,000 to Montana Tech, of the University of Montana System, to assist with the construction of a new Natural Resources Building. When completed in 2008, the facility will expand the capacity of Montana Tech's Petroleum Engineering Department to train engineers for the United States' unconventional gas markets. "We are proud to be part of this endeavor," said **Jim Brown**, senior vice president, western hemisphere, Halliburton Energy Services Group. ☛

## New Saudi Aramco office opens in China

SAUDI ARAMCO HAS opened the new Aramco Overseas Company office in Shanghai, China. It will focus on the strategic sourcing of new companies involved in manufacturing and contracting of materials for Saudi Aramco. The long-range plan is to focus on China's emerging markets, Saudi Aramco said. This follows the recent opening of a similar office in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. ☛

## Omron to supply power, drilling control systems for Atwood jackup

OMRON OILFIELD & MARINE announced it has been chosen to supply the AC/DC power conversion and automated drilling control system for **Atwood Oceanics'** Aurora jackup. The scope includes AC/DC drive system, generator control and power distribution, and automated drilling control system with touch-screen monitoring. ☛

### • PRODUCTS •

## High-expansion sealing technology uses metal in place of elastomers

BAKER OIL TOOLS is offering the metal-to-metal, high-expansion Z-Seal technology to increase the capability of downhole equipment to provide pressure integrity, particularly in hostile, HPHT environments. It uses expanding metal in place of elastomers to form a high-integrity pressure seal on the

tubular wall. The seal is made entirely of metal, making it highly insensitive to temperature failure modes and able to withstand high-pressure forces. The metal seal expands up to 160% of its original size and uses applied differential pressure to exert additional self-energizing load to reinforce the seal.

The system can be fully retracted in applications that require tool retrieval. Eliminating elastomers can improve

downhole equipment performance by eliminating conventional failure modes such as temperature or chemical degradation, fatigue and shearing.

Other advantages include a lower profile, smaller OD for protection from mechanical damage, easier retrieval and less debris, chemical and gas resistance, and conformance to irregular bore shapes. ☛

## 'History of Oil Well Drilling'

"THE HISTORY of Oil Well Drilling" by **Dr J.E. Brantly** is back in print. The 1,500-page book records the beginning and development of the drilling industry from early water and brine drilling to the vast industry of today. For more information, go to [www.gpcbooks.com](http://www.gpcbooks.com). ☛

## System reduces amount of water requiring disposal

A PRODUCED water-polishing system from **MI Epcon AS**, a division of **MI SWACO**, can cut in half the amount of oil-contaminated water requiring disposal on the Chevron-operated Alba platform in the UK sector of the North Sea. The system, with 8 compact flotation units and a separate vessel to collect recovered oil, has a design capacity for 360,000 bbl/day. MI Epcon's principal technology is the Compact Flotation Unit, which combines a number of influences, including gas flotation and induced centrifugal inertia forces, to optimize separation. ☛



**Stabil Drill's new line of shock tools can operate in temperatures of 275-450°.**

## New tools absorb shock load on drill string, bit; reduce vibrations; improve rates of penetration

STABIL DRILL, A **Superior Energy Services** company, has introduced its new line of shock tools, designed to provide an improved rate of penetration and to minimize axial vibrations produced by the drill bit during drilling operations.

The tools will absorb shock load on the drill string and drill bit. They also reduce vibrations using a series of

springs. The shock tools can be equipped with light, medium or heavy weight springs to accommodate various drilling conditions.

Designed to enhance Stabil Drill's roller reamer line of products, the tools are available in sizes ranging from 4 3/4 in. to 9 1/2 in. and can operate in temperatures of 275-450°, depending on the seal. ☛