

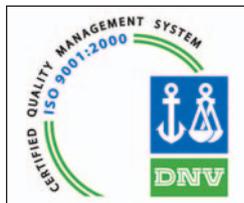


NEWS CUTTINGS

Accreditation & Certification completes ISO certification audit

IADC'S ACCREDITATION & Certification Department (ACD) completed the first annual periodic audit of its ISO 9001-2000 certified Quality Management System (QMS) in February with excellent results. The auditor, employed by **Det Norske Veritas**, noted no non-conformities in the department's operations and was complimentary of the efforts made to ensure compliance.

"ACD had an extremely busy year in



steadily growing number of training providers and a record number of WellCAP and RigPass certificates, as well as new

2006," said **Steve Kropla**, IADC vice president of accreditation & certification. "The department handled a

programs like competence assurance and ballast control and stability.

"To maintain a level of customer service and quality in accordance with the high standards of DNV is an accomplishment of the highest order for the department's staff," Mr Kropla continued.

ACD first obtained its ISO certification from DNV in March 2006. Annual audits are required to maintain certification. ♣

MMS seeks input on 'hands-on' testing

JOSEPH LEVINE, SENIOR engineer with the US Minerals Management Service, addressed the IADC Well Control Committee in January regarding the agency's possible plans to pursue "hands-on" testing of rig employees.

According to Mr Levine, shortcomings detected in Subpart O audits have led to an increasing number of Incidents of Non-Compliance (INCs). That, coupled with the increasing level of offshore rig activity and new personnel, is leading MMS to explore the possibility of hands-on testing. MMS training regulations currently provide for hands-on safety, simulator or live well testing to assess the effectiveness of training for field personnel.

Mr Levine discussed several options that are being considered by MMS for hands-on testing, including live well tests at dedicated facilities and tests using simulators and computers at facilities operated by training providers or at offshore locations. Another option is to formalize well control drills required by the current regula-

tions to satisfy the hands-on testing needs, he stated.

Each drilling crew working on the US Outer Continental Shelf is currently required to complete a well control drill in accordance with existing drilling regulations.

MMS first voiced interest in formalizing hands-on testing procedures in a presentation given in November 2006 by **Bud Danenberger**, chief of MMS' Office of Offshore Regulatory Programs, at the WellCTRL Gulf of Mexico Conference sponsored by Texas A&M University. **Steve Kropla**, IADC vice president of accreditation & certification, also made a presentation on training issues at the conference.

Comments regarding the hands-on testing issue may be submitted to IADC or Mr Levine. A copy of his presentation, including his contact details, is posted in the Well Control Committee section of the IADC web site. IADC is currently studying the issue. ♣

Northern Arabian Gulf Chapter elects officers

THE IADC NORTHERN Arabian Gulf Chapter recently elected new officers for 2007.

Ali Al Ghamdi of **Saudi Aramco** was elected chapter chairman. **Victor U Ughelie** of **Arabian Drilling Company** was elected vice chairman. **Imad Al Enaizi** of **Al-Enaizi Enterprises** was elected treasurer, and **Ossama Z Al-Mohtaseb** of **Rawabi Trading & Contracting Company** was elected secretary. ♣

ITS Committee elects new chairman

DAVID TRAHAN OF **Atwood Oceanics** has been elected chairman of the IADC Information Technology Solutions (ITS) Committee. Mr Trahan, Atwood's manager of information technology solutions, was nominated at the committee's January meeting to take the place of outgoing chairman **John Truschinger** of **GlobalSantaFe**. ♣

Support IADC's Safety Alerts Program

IADC MEMBERS ARE encouraged to submit alerts for the Safety Alert Program, which has been an industry standout since 1998. Alerts are made generic, and company identification is withheld. To share alerts with the industry, send them in any format to joe.hurt@iadc.org or safety.alerts@iadc.org. ♣

WellCAP written examination protocol proposed

THE TESTING SUBCOMMITTEE of the IADC Well Control Committee has proposed guidelines for accredited WellCAP training providers to follow when administering written examinations.

Opinions and comments are being sought from IADC members and other interested parties. The proposed guidelines, based

on suggestions originally submitted by **John Heath** of **Transocean's** Aberdeen Training Centre, are posted on the IADC web site. Comments may be submitted via e-mail, fax, mail or a web-based form at www.iadc.org/committees/wellcontrol/testing.htm. The issue will be discussed at the next meeting of the Well Control Committee, tentatively scheduled for 25 April 2007. ♣