

Angola Block 31 developments get green light

SONANGOL E.P. HAS authorized BP and its co-venturers to develop a series of deepwater oil discoveries in offshore Angola's Block 31. The program is based on a standardized development concept intended to reduce cycle time, optimize capital and maximize operating efficiency through standardized design, fabrication and commissioning.

The first project in the program will comprise the Plutão, Saturno, Vênus and Marte (PSVM) fields, which lie in the northeast sector of Block 31, in a water

depth of approximately 2,000 m, some 400 km northwest of Luanda. Construction work is expected to start during 2008, with first oil planned in 2011 and building to a plateau of about 150,000 bbl/day by 2012.

BP and its co-venturers have announced 15 discoveries in Block 31 to date. Full development will comprise multiple hubs similar to the PSMV development. The second development will be in the south-east area of Block 31 and is in the planning phase.

Maersk Resolute jackup delivered 3 days early

KEPPEL FELS HAS delivered the Maersk Resolute jackup to **Maersk Contractors** three days ahead of schedule. It is the second in a series of four high-efficiency jackups being built for Maersk. The rig has been contracted to **Dong Energy** for operations in the Danish part of the North Sea for three years.

The rigs have a maximum operating depth of 350 ft and are suitable for drilling deep, high-temperature, high-pressure wells up to 30,000 ft. They are also highly automated for safe operations.

Deliveries of these rigs are scheduled at half-yearly intervals. The first rig, Maersk Resilient, was delivered in February 2008 and has commenced operations for **Dubai Petroleum**.



The Maersk Resolute is contracted to Dong Energy for three years.

Production starts from Nigeria's large Agbami Field

CHEVRON'S NIGERIAN AFFILIATE **Star Deep Water Petroleum** has commenced crude oil production from the Agbami Field offshore Nigeria. First oil from the Agbami Field was achieved on 29 July 2008 from a FPSO. Initial production is expected to be more than 100,000 bbl/day and is projected to increase to 250,000 bbl/day by the end of 2009.

The Agbami Field, discovered in 1998, is the largest deepwater discovery in Nigeria and is estimated to hold potentially recoverable volumes of 900 million bbl.

"Chevron and our partners have reached an exciting milestone for a major project 10 years in the making. Production from

Agbami will now bring new energy supplies to the world market and help provide long-term, sustainable returns to our shareholders," said **Ali Moshiri**, president of Chevron Africa and Latin America Exploration and Production.

"Agbami is a world-class project, and I'm particularly proud that Agbami represents the industry's largest-ever support of Nigerian content." The Agbami project set a new benchmark for Nigerian local content, including the largest module ever fabricated in Nigeria.

Chevron is the operator and has a 68.2% interest. Its partners include the **Nigerian National Petroleum Corp.**, **Famfa Oil**, **Petrobras** and **Statoil**.

Samsung sets sights on hot Latin American shipbuilding market

SAMSUNG HEAVY **Industries** (SHI) has announced in that it is "out to dominate the Latin American marine market." It is buying a stake in **EAS** (Estaleiro Atlantico Sul), a Brazilian shipyard that SHI has been providing technology support for since 2006. According to SHI, EAS is the largest shipyard to be built in the Latin American region.

SHI is making a US\$12.8 million acquisition for 10% of EAS Shipyard. The company believes the deal will enable SHI "to hold a dominant position in terms of receiving orders for the total of USD 30 billion worth of drillships and semisubmersible drilling rigs that Brazil intends to demand."

Construction of the EAS Shipyard began in April 2007 at the Suape complex in Eastern Brazil, and the yard has a size of 1.65 million sq m. **Camargo, Queiroz** and **PJMR**, all from Brazil, invested a total of US\$220 million into this shipyard. SHI's acquisition will allow Camargo and Queiroz each to hold a 40% stake, while SHI and PJMR will hold a 10% stake each. The shipyard will boast a dock that is 400 m long and 73 m wide. Upon completion in September 2009, it will have a ship production capacity of 160,000 tons.

Petrobras to operate 63 offshore rigs by 2017

PETROBRAS CFO **ALMIR Barbassa** announced that the company intends to put new offshore drilling rigs into operation and to close 2017 with 63 units in use in deepwater and ultra-deepwater. This is nearly double the amount of drilling rigs currently in operation. Mr Barbassa said Petrobras is encouraging foreign companies to install activities in Brazil, particularly in partnership with Brazilian companies, on driving the entrance of new companies and boosting productive capacity in highly competitive sectors.

ENSCO 8500 is the first in the ENSCO 8500 Series semis being built in Singapore. The series is an enhanced version of the ENSCO 7500. It can drill in up to 8,500 ft of water and be upgraded for 10,000-ft water depth.



ENSCO 8500 deepwater semi inaugurated

THE FIRST RIG in ENSCO International's fleet of six new ENSCO 8500 Series semisubmersibles, worth US\$2.5 billion in total, has been named the ENSCO 8500. The rig is contracted to **Anadarko Petroleum** and **Eni** in the Gulf of Mexico.

Keppel FELS stated that a strong safety record of 5.5 million incident-free manhours was achieved by the yard in the construction of this rig. "The rich collective experience and insights we have gained on the ENSCO 8500 semi will certainly enhance the engineering and construction efficiency of the next

five units to come," said **Choo Chiau Beng**, chairman and CEO of **Keppel Offshore and Marine**.

The ENSCO 8500 Series of deepwater semisubmersibles is an enhanced version of the ENSCO 7500 and is based on an ENSCO proprietary design. The rigs will be capable of drilling in up to 8,500 ft of water and can be upgraded to 10,000 ft. Enhanced features include a two million-lb quad derrick, offline pipe handling capability, increased drilling capacity, greater variable deck load and improved automatic station-keeping ability.

Report: Haynesville Shale could get bigger than current Barnett Shale within 5 years

THE HAYNESVILLE SHALE has strong potential to become the fastest growing shale play to date in the Lower 48, based on initial results from operators, according to a recent **Wood Mackenzie** report. "Our models suggest that the Haynesville shale, if developed in our most bullish case, could be bigger than the current size of the Barnett within five years," said **Robert Clarke**, upstream analyst for Wood Mackenzie.

The initial conservative production forecast, based on data from the largest participants in the play, shows unconstrained supply peaking at 4.0 bcf/d in 2014. "To put it in perspective, over the last eight years, the Barnett has grown from producing 140 mmcf/d to 3.8 bcf/d, but over the

past 36 months, the Barnett has grown from 1.3-3.8 bcf/d. In our view, while the magnitude of Haynesville's production growth is not surprising, the pace at which operators are expected to achieve those levels is remarkable. Unlike the Barnett and Fayetteville, Haynesville should not require thousands of successful wells to surpass production of 1.0 bcf/d."

The main challenge for operators is the inability of current infrastructure in the Haynesville area to support the production growth without significant investment in additional takeaway capacity. The current system can only absorb an additional 1.0 bcf/d.

The play's three largest operators are **Chesapeake**, **EnCana** in partnership with **Shell**, and **Petrohawk**.

Bentec to build 4 Cluster SliderT rigs for Russia

BENTEC DRILLING AND Oilfield Systems will fabricate and deliver four of its HR 4500 Cluster SliderT rigs to Russian drilling contractor **SSK** (Siberian Service Company). This is Bentec's fourth major contract for its Cluster SliderT rigs and follows the delivery of 12 others to **KCA DEUTAG**, **BK Eurasia** and **Gazprom**, which are also working in Siberia. Bentec's 250-ton HR 4500 Cluster SliderT rig is GOST-certified for operation in harsh Russian environments. All components are mounted on a rail track to allow for fast skidding.

New discovery made in Santos Basin's pre-salt layer

A MATERIAL NEW oil discovery in the pre-salt Santos Basin, offshore Brazil, has been made. The exploration well, known as Iara, discovered 30° API light crude oil within the BM-S-11 concession area. Iara is the third well to encounter hydrocarbons within the BM-S-11 concession area in which operator **Petrobras** holds a 65% interest, **BG Group** 25% and **Galp Energia** 10%. Block BM-S-11 is composed of two exploratory areas. The first well, Tupi, was drilled in the larger one, and the discovery was announced in 2006. Iara is located in the smaller area approximately 230 km off the coast of Rio de Janeiro. The well is still being drilled in search of deeper prospects.

West Polaris drillship delivered

SAMSUNG HEAVY INDUSTRIES has delivered to **Seadrill** the ultra-deepwater drillship West Polaris, 10 days after the original contract schedule. The rig has a four-year contract for worldwide exploration activities for **Exxon**, and its first drilling assignment is in Brazil.

Separately, the ultra-deepwater semi West Phoenix was originally delivered from Samsung on 31 March 2008. The unit has a three-year contract with **TOTAL Norge**. The unit is currently in the port of Las Palmas, Spain, where the unit's main drilling equipment systems are undergoing testing and commissioning activities. These activities are taking longer than anticipated, and the start-up of operations for TOTAL has been postponed from late August to October this year.