Annual Mtg, Drilling GOM focus on issues, future

THE 2001 IADC ANNUAL MEETING, 26-28 Sept in New Orleans, will explore in detail the challenges facing large and small drilling contractors and their service/supply partners as demand for drilling remains strong.

While oil and gas markets will remain cyclical, there is evidence that healthy demand, especially for natural gas will sustain a higher-than-average level of drilling activity.

The 2001 IADC Annual Meeting will assess the drilling market outlook and report in detail on recent trends. Presentations will also address regulatory and government policy issues, rig refurbishing and construction, information technology and more.

The event begins Wednesday afternoon with a government affairs session focusing on legislation and initiatives with a direct impact on drilling operations. Chairman of the session is Paul Kelly, Rowan Companies Inc, Chairman of the IADC Government Affairs Committee. The keynote address during this session will be by Carolita Kallaur, Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management, US Minerals Management Service.

The afternoon program concludes with an IADC operations roundup and regulatory review chaired by Ken Fischer, IADC Vice President Operations. Preparation of a safety regulatory model in Brazil will be discussed by Dr Henrique M Paula, ABS Group Inc and David W Trinker, EQE International.

IADC’s WellCAP program will be the focus of a presentation by Robert Burnett, Global Marine Drilling Co, Chairman of the IADC Well Control Committee.

Patrick Brand, Blade Energy Partners, Chairman, IADC Underbalanced Operations Committee, will discuss underbalanced drilling activities.

To conclude the session, John Lindsay, Helmerich & Payne IDC, IADC Vice President-Land Division, will report on land regulations and initiatives. Marion Woolie, Global Marine Drilling Co, IADC Vice President-Offshore Division, will report on offshore activities.

Wednesday evening the traditional welcoming reception, sponsored by Security DBS and IADC is an opportunity to visit and make new business contacts.

Thursday’s program begins with the Reed-Hycalog Breakfast at which the latest Reed-Hycalog Rig Census and Contractor Survey is unveiled. Reed-Hycalog President John Deane will present the Census, then a panel of executives will discuss its implications for the rig market.

The panel includes John Schiller, Ocean Energy Inc, Lawrence R Dickerson, Diamond Offshore Drilling Inc and Francis John, Key Energy Services Inc.

Equipment revitalization and new builds are the focus of the next session of the day, moderated by Thomas P Richards, IADC Chairman and President & CEO, Grey Wolf Inc. Panel members include John Lindsay and Alan Orr, Helmerich & Payne IDC; Dennis Smith, Nabors Industries Inc; Ronnie McBride, Grey Wolf Drilling Co LP; and Michael Little, South Texas Drilling & Exploration Inc.

Thursday’s lunch, sponsored by Hughes Christensen, will feature a presentation by Mark G Papa, Chairman & CEO, EOG Resources Inc, Houston.

Following lunch is a look at information technology solutions in the drilling industry, moderated by Scott Milliren, Helmerich & Payne IDC.

Thursday evening’s Annual Meeting Banquet will be a special event at a special venue, taking full advantage of the ambience of New Orleans. It is preceded by the Annual Meeting Reception, sponsored by Caterpillar Inc.

Friday’s morning session includes a look at emerging offshore drilling technology moderated by C Stedman Garber Jr, Santa Fe International Corp, IADC Vice Chairman.

Contributors to this discussion include Tim Juran, Transocean Sedco Forex; Charles P Keaton, Global Marine Drilling Co; William E Chiles, Chiles Offshore Inc; and Aliza Fan, John S Herold Inc.

The final session of the 2001 IADC Annual Meeting is one of the event’s most popular features, the IADC Analysts Panel.

This year’s panel, moderated by IADC Chairman Richards includes Robert Ford, Sanders Morris Harris; George Littell, Groppe, Long & Littell; and Aliza Fan, John S Herold Inc.

Throughout the Annual Meeting, coffee service is sponsored by National Oilwell, Halliburton Energy Services and Tesco Drilling Technology Inc.

DRILLING GULF OF MEXICO

Drilling Gulf of Mexico 2001, 5-6 Dec at the Omni Houston Hotel Westside, will shine the spotlight on one of the world’s most important offshore exploration and development regions.

This important Conference is sponsored by IADC and the Offshore Operators Committee.

The Gulf of Mexico has been one of the most active deepwater areas. To date, more than 450 exploration wells have been drilled in the Gulf with a success rate of 26%. But the Gulf’s relative maturity does not mean that interest is waning. On the contrary, the region still has enormous potential and will play a critical role in meeting US energy demand.

Drilling Gulf of Mexico 2001 will focus on timely technical, regulatory and HSE issues related to offshore drilling operations in the Gulf of Mexico, as well as the market outlook.

Both the continental shelf and deepwater areas will be discussed at Drilling Gulf of Mexico 2001. Speakers will detail operating procedures and equipment, health and safety issues, research and development efforts, environmental challenges and more.

The exhibition that is part of the event offers companies exposure to key buying influences for their equipment and professional services.

For Exhibition details, please contact Leesa Teel, 1/281 578 7171, ext 210 (leesa.teel@iadc.org). For conference information visit IADC’s website at http://iadc.org/conferences.htm.