Annual meeting has operating, technical guidance

THE 2001 IADC ANNUAL Meeting, 26-28 Sept in New Orleans, explores 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 assesses the drilling market outlook and reports on recent trends.

Presentations also address regulatory and government policy issues, rig refurbishing and construction, information technology and more.

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

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.

With the energy industry in the news and on the minds of policy makers more than at any time in the last 2 decades, this session looks at legislation and initiatives with a direct impact on drilling operations around the world.

Following this opening session, Carolita Kallaur, Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management, US Minerals Management Service, will present the keynote address. Ms Kallaur is one of the most knowledgeable people in government on the offshore drilling industry.

With responsibility for all phases of OCS mineral resource management, she joined MMS when the agency was formed in 1982 and has served in several leadership positions.

The afternoon program concludes with an IADC operations roundup and regulatory review chaired by Ken Fischer, IADC Vice President Operations. This wide-ranging session examines IADC initiatives in training and technology, as well as reviewing regulatory developments both current and on the horizon.

IADC’s WellCAP is the subject 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 first time. Reed-Hycalog President John Deane will present the Census, then a panel of executives will discuss its implications for the rig market.

The panel, representing land and offshore drillers and producers, 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.

Demand for US land rigs continues to rise, challenging the industry to put forth not only more drilling units, but also more efficient technology. Contractors are responding ingeniously. This session examines the economic drivers and the industry’s response in refurbishing existing equipment and designing new rigs.

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, Pioneer Drilling Company Ltd.

Thursday’s lunch, sponsored by Hughes Christensen, will feature a presentation by Mark G Papa, Chairman & CEO, EOG Resources Inc, one of the leading independent exploration and production companies.

Since 1989, EOG Resources has increased its worldwide natural gas production from 344 to over 900 MMcfd and exceeded 100% reserve replacement through drilling for 10 consecutive years. In 1999, EOG was the leader in the number of wells drilled in the US.

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

Though the upstream oil and gas industry has been relatively slow to adopt information technology solutions, infor-
mation technology is increasingly integrated into more and more facets of the drilling operation. This panel, organized by the IADC Information Technology Solutions Committee, will illustrate IT’s evolution into a core business practice.

Thursday evening’s Annual Meeting Banquet is a special event at a special venue, taking full advantage of the ambience of New Orleans.

Following the Annual Meeting Reception, sponsored by Caterpillar Inc, conference attendees parade about 6 blocks from the hotel to the Cajun Queen Riverboat docked near the New Orleans Aquarium. A 3-hour buffet dinner cruise features gambling (play money) and the sounds of Dixieland.

Table arrangements for the banquet are courtesy Schlumberger Oilfield Services and entertainment is sponsored by Smith International Inc.

Coffee service on Thursday is provided by Halliburton Energy Services.

FRIDAY FINALE

The Dixieland Breakfast Buffet, sponsored by Grant Prideco Inc, kicks off Friday’s conference program.

The morning session begins with “Emerging Offshore Drilling Technology,” moderated by C Stedman Garber Jr, Santa Fe International Corp, IADC Vice Chairman.

As offshore rig supply tightens, operators and contractors are looking for efficiencies in all phases of the drilling operation. The result has been innovative solutions on both new builds and upgrades. This session looks at key examples of rig design for floaters and jackups, as well as subsea mudlift drilling, a landmark concept aimed at reducing the need for heavy risers.

Discussions in this session include:

- “Experience and Application with Dual-Activity Derricks,” presented by Tim Juran, Transocean Sedco Forex;
- “Upgrading the Existing Offshore Fleet,” presented by Charles P Keaton, Global Marine Drilling Co;
- “Subsea Mudlift Drilling Field Test Review,” presented by Ken Smith, Conoco Inc.

The final session of the 2001 IADC Annual Meeting is 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.

The outlook is bright for the drilling and oilfield service industries. Challenges loom, however, including a stark shortage of skilled personnel and potentially long lead times for equipment.

This panel of industry analysts will provide insight on these and other issues.

Coffee service on Friday is sponsored by Tesco Drilling Technology Inc.