

HSE & training conference set for 5-6 Feb, Houston

ONE OF IADC'S MOST consistently popular conference is scheduled for 5-6 February at the Omni Hotel in Houston. The 2002 IADC Health, Safety, Environment & Training Conference and Exhibition is expected to attract more than 200 drilling contractors and operators to the conference to listen to topics ranging from safety innovations to measuring training effectiveness to security at the wellsite.

This year's conference will include additional discussions about training and will include discussions about some timely issues. Perhaps the topic of most concern is that of competency and measuring training effectiveness.

"The competency issue is probably our number one concern," said **Larry E Andrews**, Chairman, IADC Training Committee. Mr Andrews is also Training Manager-Western Hemisphere, for Noble Drilling Corp.

"More and more British companies are becoming major players in the Gulf of Mexico, and they come with a typical North Sea background with a very elaborately laid out competency program established through the government."

"We have already seen this in recent bid proposals we received," Mr Andrews continued. "They don't ask for resumes on crew anymore. Instead, they want to know how we determine competency when we hire someone, and how do we maintain that level of competency throughout their career."

IADC's Training Committee is addressing this issue and hope to put together a program accepted by IADC for competency for all rig crew positions.

"It would be a generic program that members would agree to," Mr Andrews said. "It would meet the minimum requirements and each contractor could fit it into their individual training program or their competency program."

Another issue that drilling contractors deal with is managing training in a downturn. A panel discussion on that topic is also scheduled for the conference.

While a part of the issue is people who are laid off from idle rigs leaving the industry with the possibility of not

returning, the other part of the issue deals with cutbacks in training during the industry's down cycles.

"Training is typically one of the first things to go when there are cutbacks," Mr Andrews said. "But how far can you cut back training without hurting productivity and safety?"

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While there will still be a certain amount of training, for example training that is mandated by governmental regulations, other more discretionary training such as sending a mechanic to an electric motor division for a one week course on repairing electric motors may be eliminated during a downturn.

But if the mechanic on a rig doesn't have that training, Mr Andrews said, rig downtime waiting for repairs could far outweigh the cost of sending that mechanic to school.

"You almost have to make a judgment call on each course rather than have a blanket cutback of training programs and schools," Mr Andrews said.

In addition to panels on these topics and many others, 20 companies will be exhibiting their products with representatives available for questions and provide information about their services.

Conference registration runs from 7:30-8:30 am with the conference officially opening at 8:30 with a welcome and introduction by **John Auth**, Chairman, IADC Health, Safety & Environment Committee, and Manager, Health, Safety & Environment with **Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc.**, and Mr Andrews.

IADC's 2002 Chairman **C Stedman Garber Jr**, President & CEO of Global-

SantaFe, will make opening remarks.

The first session begins at 9:00 am when Mr Andrews will moderate the panel discussion on *Competency: Measuring Training Effectiveness*. One of the speakers on the panel will be **Tom Clarke**, Training Manager-Shallow Water Region for Transocean Sedco Forex in Lafayette.

Training is critical if contractors and operators are to continue. Gain insights from the panel of experts into what constitutes a sound training program. The panel also will discuss benchmarks that serve to adequately measure the effectiveness of industry training and, thus, the ultimate competency of the trainee.

Security at the Wellsite: The Post-September 11 Challenge will present a panel of security experts and specialists to examine critical risk factors in industry operations and how the industry can protect people, equipment and energy resources from outside threats. Representatives from Risk Mitigation, Air Security International and Control Risks Group, LLC will comprise the panel moderated by **Randy Brown**, Subcommittee Chairman, IADC Safety by Design, and Safety & Environment Manager for **Nabors Drilling**.

Following the luncheon and time for viewing the exhibits, **Doug Hansen** with **Hidden Resources, Inc.** will discuss *Tapping Hidden Abilities to Achieve Your Personal Best*. Mr Hansen is a nationally recognized speaker and the founder and owner of Hidden Resources, a company committed to helping people and companies recognize the vast pool of talent and value that lies beneath the surface. His insights seek to help people to realize full potential and achieve personal best by rediscovering in-born but latent interests, talents and energy.

An update on OSHA Requirements and Initiatives will be presented, providing attendees with a solid knowledge of the latest OSHA requirements for accident record keeping. Additionally, the session will give registrants a heads up on the direction and outlook for the now-dormant but still lingering OSHA ergonomic initiatives.

The latest OSHA record-keeping requirements will be presented by **Jorge Pena**, OSHA Spanish Training Coordinator, Southwest Regional Training Center, **Texas Engineering Extension Service-TEEX**. The **Status of Ergonomics Regulations** will be presented by **William P Hedrick**, Vice Chairman, IADC Training Committee, and Health, Safety & Environment Manager for **Rowan Companies**.

The final panel of the first day will discuss *Managing Training in the Downturn*, moderated by Mr Andrews. With the industry roller coaster apparently heading toward another down cycle, at least short-term, severe pressure is created for drilling training specialists faced with the need to keep instructional programs vibrant within a reality of financial constraints and hiring slowdowns. The specialists on the panel will share their thoughts on industry training in the best and worst of times.

The conference's second day will open with a discussion of the *State of the Industry: Drilling Economics and Markets for Land and Offshore* that is certain to of interest to everyone.

E&P industry fundamentals appear favorable even as the rig count moves downward. Drilling contractors, both land and offshore, are undeniably dependent upon oil and natural gas prices, arguably the most volatile commodities on earth.

The well-known and respected industry executives on the panel will discuss where the commodity prices might settle and how the drilling industry will respond. The panel includes **Dennis Smith**, Director of Corporate Communications for **Nabors Industries Inc.**; **Steven A Richards**, Vice President of Drilling Operations for **Key Energy Services**; and **Dennis Heagney**, Chief Operating Officer for **Transocean Sedco Forex**.

During the next panel, *The New SubPart O: Implications for Oil and Gas Producers*, the speakers will present SubPart O changes from the perspective of producing companies. Operators on federal lands will soon bear the full responsibility for assuring the well-control competency of workers on their facilities as a result in looming changes in federal regulations. The changes in SubPart O are critical not only to indus-

try trainers but to operating executives as well.

Tim Sampson, Coordinator of Drilling and Production Operations for the API, and **Steve Brooks**, Chairman of the Technical Sub-Committee, Offshore Operators Committee, and Division Engineer for **ExxonMobil** will discuss the SubPart O issues. Mr Hedrick will moderate the discussion.

The *Operator's Perspective on Safety & Training* will also be discussed during a panel. Drilling contractors continuously strive to provide the most well-trained and safest rig crews. Contractors pursue safety from concern for their people.

Operators are also well-served by contracting safe rigs. During this panel, a major and an independent operator, both renowned for commitments to safety, provide their thoughts on how successfully the industry rises to the challenge.

The panel, moderated by Mr Auth, includes **Steve Horton**, Director, Health, Safety & Drilling, **BP Exploration**

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Operating Company, and **Gary Harrington**, Environmental Engineer, **Newfield Exploration Company**.

The afternoon session begins with a discussion of *ISO 14001: Implementation and Certification* by **Michael Cadigan**, HSEQ Manager for **Noble Drilling Services**. Mr Cadigan's presentation will share practical strategies employed by an offshore drilling contractor to achieve and implement ISO 14001 certification. The presentation will include a case history from a respected drilling contractor that has received ISO 14001 certification for several of its offshore rigs.

The conference closes Wednesday afternoon with a panel on Safety Innovations. While the global drilling industry has

improved its safety performance by 400% since 1968, the industry is still not satisfied with the results. Room for continued improvement exists as long as one rig worked can be injured. This panel is a fitting end to one of the drilling industry's leading event in HSE and training.

The panel, moderated by Mr Auth, who will also make a presentation on fall protection, includes topics on Man Riding by **Mike Stevens**, Manager of Safety (HSE) for **Nabors Drilling USA**. Also, **Toby Kershaw**, Vice Chairman Land, IADC Health Safety & Environment Committee, and Safety/Training Manager for **Grey Wolf Drilling** will discuss the importance of Communications. Dropped objects will be an additional topic of discussion.

Following the final panel will be a Q&A session, drawings for door prizes and closing remarks by Mr Auth.

The HSE & Training Conference is made possible in large part due to the generous support of **Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc.** and **Noble Drilling Corporation**.

Special thanks go to the committee members for their support in organizing the conference: **Larry Andrews**, **Noble Drilling Corporation**; **John Auth**, **Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc.**; **Bill Hedrick**, **Rowan Companies, Inc.**; **Joe Hurt**, **IADC**; **Toby Kershaw**, **Grey Wolf Drilling Company, L.P.**; and **Mike Stephens**, **Nabors Drilling USA**.

Be sure to make time to visit the exhibitors during the conference. They include **Alexander/Ryan Marine & Safety Company**; **Bishop Lifting Products, Inc.**; **Champion Elevators, Inc.**; **The Randy Clay Company**; **Custom Safety Products**; **Decision Point Associates, Inc.**; **EGC Enterprises, Inc.**; **Enviro-Pak Compactors/Tech Oil**; **Gill Services/Katch Kan Ltd.**; and **IADC Accreditation Programs/IADC Publications**.

Also exhibiting at the conference are **LHR Services & Equipment, Inc.**; **SECON**, a Division of **Civigenics**; **Randy Smith Training schools, Inc.**; **Soll Americas**; **Total Safety Inc.**; **Wayne Enterprises, Inc.**; **Web Devices**; **Well Control School**; **Wenaas AGS, Inc.**; and **Westex, Inc.** ■