

DRILLING AHEAD

A testament to drilling ingenuity

Mike Killalea, Editor & Publisher

THESE DAYS, THE drilling industry scratches its collective head in economic puzzlement. Despite energy prices well nigh Herculean strength, demand for drilling services has remained inelastic to the point of rigor mortis.

Economic constraints notwithstanding, innovation reigns. This edition of DRILLING CONTRACTOR is a small testament to the ingenuity of the men and women who drill the wells that produce the fuel that powers the economy that provides the jobs that pay for the house that Jack built. Within, you will find abstracts of the finest technology this business has to offer. These are just a taste of the **2003 SPE/IADC Drilling Conference**, 19-21 Feb in Amsterdam. An outstanding team of drilling professionals chaired by **John Willis, Halliburton Energy Services**, has worked diligently over the last year to prepare the 18 technical and 3 plenary sessions for this event.

FUTURE SANS FRONTIÈRES

The theme for the event couldn't be more timely in these pivotal days of the early 21st Century—"People and Technology: The Future Sans Frontières". No boundaries. This theme forms the core of the first day's plenary session. Issues include the coming "Big Crew Change" and the ability—or lack thereof—of e-learning and technology to impart "experience" to industry novices and the projected peak in world oil production simultaneous with relentless demand increase.

For more on the SPE/IADC Drilling Conference, check out the IADC or SPE website (www.iadc.org or www.spe.org).

HEALTH, SAFETY, ENVIRONMENT

There is no aspect of drilling practice or science that IADC members do not have expertise and interest in. IADC's 2003 conference calendar pretty much covers all areas of interest, too.

High on the list, of course, is health, safety, environment and training. In this edi-

tion, you'll find details on canny innovations by **Bandera Drilling** to improve health and safety, as well as the fundamentals of **Caza Drilling's** comprehensive Master Driller Training program. Caza's program is a highlight of the **2003 IADC Health, Safety, Environment and Training Conference**, 4-6 February in Houston. See page 20 for a preview of this comprehensive look at drilling HSE/T.

TECHNOLOGY & MORE IN '03

IADC has a well-rounded conference program for 2003. I hope you will take a few moments to visit our website and explore the opportunities. Some highlights:

- IADC Spring Membership Conference, 22-24 April, Washington. Global regulation and markets;
- IADC Drilling Onshore America (formerly Land Contractors Day, 21 May, Houston. Land drilling technology, HSE and outlook;
- 2003 Drilling Engineering Association Workshop "Deepwater Drilling: Where are We Headed?" 17-18 June, Galveston, Texas. Visionary technology, R&D;
- IADC World Drilling 2003, 25-26 June, Vienna Austria. New technology for aging reservoirs and new frontiers;
- 2003 IADC Annual Meeting & Exhibition, 24-26 Sept, Houston.
- IADC North Sea Health, Safety & Environment Conference & Exhibition, 14-15 Oct, Aberdeen. Manriding, cargo handling, safety orientation training, more.
- SPE/IADC Middle East Drilling Conference, 22-24 Oct, Abu Dhabi.
- IADC International Deepwater Drilling Conference, 12-13 Nov, Rio de Janeiro, Sponsored by Petrobras University and in conjunction with Instituto Brasileiro de Petróleo e Gás (IBP).
- IADC Drilling Gulf of Mexico 2003, 9-10 Dec, Houston. Shelf and deepwater drilling technology, HSE and markets in the Gulf of Mexico.

See you there! ■