

SPE/IADC Mid East Drilling Conference 20-22 Oct

TECHNOLOGY AND VALUE: Achieving the Right Balance is the theme of this year's SPE/IADC Middle East Drilling Conference in Abu Dhabi 20-22 Oct. In addition to the various technical sessions and exhibition, the conference features two plenary sessions. Chairman of this year's conference is **Hussain M Al-Haleimi** with Saudi Aramco.

The first plenary session presents Challenges of Aging Field, Equipment and People. Keynote speakers for this session include **Duncan Bonner**, Managing Director of Eastern Hemisphere for **Randy Smith**; **Eugene Kemp**, Manager Middle East and North East Africa, **Cameron**; **Luis Acevedo**, General Manager, **Tenaris Network**; **Juan Carlos Gonzales**, Drilling Specialist, **Tenaris Network**; **Mario Vespa**, Drilling Specialist, **Tenaris Network**; and **Phil Longorio**, Vice President, **Halliburton**.

The second plenary session, Conflicts? What Conflicts?: Using Technology to

Increase Collaboration with Drilling, also features several excellent keynote speakers, including **John Thorogood**, Exploration Drilling Project Manager, **BP** and Director, Drilling and Completions, **SPE**; **Andre van Strijp**, General Manager, **ADCO**; **Sulaiman A Al-Fasam**, Executive Director, **ARAMCO**; and **Marc Edwards**, Vice President, **Halliburton**.

OTHER TECHNICAL SESSIONS

Six technical sessions during the conference will feature presentations on Performance Drilling; Managing the Drillsite; Optimizing Well Design; real-time Operations; Underbalanced Drilling; and Case Histories.

The Performance Drilling session will encompass a review of performance drilling from bit selection, motor and steerable drilling technology through to looking at contractual relationships and how they can affect the overall drilling process.

Managing the Drillsite session will cover how to protect people and the environment during drilling operations. The Optimizing Well Design session will look at the use of the latest technologies and innovative practices to optimize well design and overcome wellbore instability problems.

During the Real-time Operations session, presenters will discuss tools and processes used to optimize well deliverability. Real-time information has become essential for decision making during drilling operations, ultimately reflects on operational performance.

For many years underbalanced drilling has been exploited commercially in many countries. This session will cover international underbalanced drilling case studies with an overview of production enhancement.

The Case Histories session will deal with novel approaches to solving regional challenges. ■

IADC Drilling Gulf of Mexico 2003 call for abstracts

IADC DRILLING GULF of Mexico 2003 is set for 9-10 December at the Omni Hotel in Houston. IADC is calling for abstracts for the upcoming conference, which will focus on timely technical, regulatory and HSE issues related to offshore drilling operations as well as the market outlook for the region. An abstract for each proposed paper must be submitted to IADC by 31 July. Authors selected will receive confirmation letters and guidelines by 31 August.

IADC Drilling Gulf of Mexico 2003 planning committee is **Danny McNease**, **Rowan Companies**; **Dave Waldrup**, **ENSCO International**; **Jurgen Sager** and **Mike Roth**, **Transocean**; **Anthony Gallegos**, **Atwood Oceanics**; **Mike Utt**, **Unocal**; and **Gary Collins**, **ConocoPhillips**.

Papers on both shelf and deepwater applications are welcome. General subject themes envisioned for the confer-

ence include the following, although abstracts exploring other areas will be considered:

Drilling rigs; deepwater drilling; well control; deep gas drilling equipment and technical limits; shallow water flows; HSE; expandable tubulars; surface BOP operations; subsea technology; Gulf of Mexico market outlook; case histories; riser management and technology; regulation and standards; and pore pressure prediction. ■

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