

DRILLING AHEAD

'Game changing' tech focus of IADC World Drilling 2003

Mike Killalea, Editor & Publisher

GAME-CHANGING. ENABLING.

Breakthrough. These adjectives describe cutting-edge technologies that aim to increase drilling efficiency and decrease cost, both in frontier arenas and aging, mature fields whose remaining reserves are but stubbornly surrendered. IADC World Drilling 2003, held during late June in Vienna and sponsored by Shell and OMV, explored a sweeping cross-section of these techniques and their potential impact on our industry.

The idea, noted Sjoerd Brouwer, Wells Activity Leader and Well Engineering Discipline Leader for Shell EP, is to institute a "step change in performance".

World Drilling's lively sessions delved deep into several potentially game-changing technologies. Anwar Al-Saadi, Project Engineer for Petroleum Development Oman, described PDO's work on ultra-short radius drilling. USR, he said, enables drilling of radii as small as 25 ft with a rotary steerable system, with no mud motors and only a workover unit. Working through 4 1/2-in. liners, PDO has drilled USR laterals from 200-700 ft, with less cost than conventional sidetracks. Besides being less expensive, one can target thin oil layers (2-8 m), and avoid shale sections.

Chris Kuyken, Team Leader-New Technology Well Engineering for Shell Expro, detailed a pioneering TTRD project in the North Cormorant field in the North Sea, one of Shell's Brownfield projects. The goal of TTRD, he explained, is low-cost multilateral wells.

The advantages of TTRD include: safer operations (no additional tree required and less tubular handling); smaller volumes for minimal environmental impact; less time and money to replace the completion; concurrent operations, allowing more efficient work flow; deeper KOP, therefore shorter open-hole sections; and

the smaller BHA used is more steerable (25 degree/30 m). Disadvantages to overcome include slower drilling than conventional sidetracks and modifying the rig.

Martin Culen, UBD Technical Manager for Precision Drilling, described the results of a 5-well multilateral UB drilling campaign in Oman's Saih Rawl Field. In all, 15 laterals were drilled, and ultimate recovery increased by 5%.

Future issues of Drilling Contractor will reprise more details on these and other of the outstanding papers presented in Vienna. ■

IADC IS MOVING!

EFFECTIVE 21 JULY, IADC headquarters will have moved from its longtime haunts in far west Houston to the medium-west sector of that fair city. E-mail and postal addresses will survive unscathed. However, phone and fax numbers and, of course, street address, are changing. The new info is:

10370 Richmond Ave, Suite 760
Houston, Texas 77042 USA
Phone: 1/713 292 1945
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ANNUAL MEETING

JOIN US IN HOUSTON for the 2003 IADC Annual Meeting. The global drilling industry's premier leadership event, the Annual Meeting will convene 24-26 September at the Intercontinental Houston Hotel in the city's lively Galleria district. Speakers will address the outlook for natural gas and oil, land and offshore drilling markets, key technologies and more. Business sessions are complemented by several social events, ideal opportunities to catch up with old friends and make new contacts.

You can find more information and register on our website by following the link at www.iadc.org/conferences.htm. ■