GlobalSantaFe management changes. C Stedman Garber, Jr will retire as the company’s President, CEO and company director effective May 6. Jon A Marshall, currently the company’s COO, will succeed Mr Garber as President and CEO and will stand for election as a company officer at the annual meeting in May.

Duff & McGovern names executives. Glenn Aguilar was appointed to Vice President of US Operations and will manage the US arm of the company that was established last spring with the opening of a sales office in Houston. His primary role will be to oversee the establishment of a new base in New Orleans to produce and manage a fleet of custom-made accommodation and engineering units specifically for the Gulf of Mexico. Mr Aguilar was most recently sales director for General Marine Leasing. Duffy & McGovern’s main Gulf of Mexico competitor. Craig Russell was appointed a commercial director to assist in the company’s expanding international operations. He will oversee the company’s sales team as well as its international agents in the US, Brazil, Canada, Norway and Nigeria. Mr Russell, previously vice president of the company’s Houston office, has over 18 years experience in the oil and gas industry.

New Halliburton CFO. C Christopher Gaut joined Halliburton as Executive Vice President and CFO. Mr Gaut was previously Senior Vice President and CFO and a member of the Office of the President and COO at ENSCO International. He had been with ENSCO International for more than 15 years and served as its CFO since 1988. His responsibilities will be reassigned to officers within ENSCO until a permanent successor is named.

Global Industries VP named. Eric Smith joined Global Industries as Vice President - Strategic Planning. Mr Smith will lead the company’s efforts in increasing its presence in the disposition and decommissioning of mature offshore properties and advance the company’s strategy of servicing the entire life cycle of an oil and gas development. Mr Smith has 36 years of experience, including 19 in the offshore drilling and marine construction industries. Prior to joining Global he served in various executive and corporate senior management roles at Torch Offshore, Saipem and McDermott.

ReedHycalog management team. Grant Prideco announced the management team for its recently acquired ReedHycalog drill bit division. John Deane was named president of the company’s new division. David Black is Vice President, Operations; Cody Scace is Vice President, Sales and Marketing; Jeff Steen was named Vice President, Administration/Legal; and Jim Lock is Vice President, Finance.

PRODUCTS

Downhole sweeping agent. Baroid developed BAROLIFT, a product that allows operators to clean downhole during drilling operations by increasing the carrying capacity of drilling fluids without increasing viscosity. The product is specially treated synthetic fiber developed from 100% virgin materials capable of performing in any type of drilling fluid. Its interlocking fibers keep drill cuttings in suspension, optimizing downhole tool performance and improving rate of penetration.

Advanced rotary steering. Sperry Sun introduced its Geo-Pilot Series II rotary steerable system that incorporates all of the design elements of its Series I system as well as several new unique features. The Series II includes added capabilities such as an azimuthal gamma ray sensor three feet from the bit consisting of three independent measurements providing early warning of formation changes in real time, allowing more precise geosteering of the well. The Series II system has 3D "cruise control" capability that allows well trajectory to be held constant and automatically corrects for any walk tendencies; allows precise vertical drilling; and has vertical kick-off capability.

Subsea wellhead retrieval system. Baker Oil Tools’ Tension Cut and Pull Subsea Wellhead Retrieval System can engage any manufacturer’s wellhead, cut conductors in tension and recover the wellhead from the seabed in a single trip. The system uses all hydraulically operated components and requires no motors and no explosives, decreasing risk and reducing damage to the subsea environment.