Key Energy Services announces executive changes. Richard J Alario was named President and COO of Key Energy Services. In addition to taking over the role of President from Francis D John, Mr Alario replaces James J Byerlotzer as COO. Mr John will retain the position as Chairman and CEO. Mr Byerlotzer will become Vice Chairman and continue to focus on safety, training and well service technology until he retires.

Pride announces executive changes. James W Allen retired as Pride International’s Senior Vice President and COO. John C G O’Leary was appointed President. He most recently was Vice President-International Operations. John R Blocker, Jr was appointed Senior Vice President-Operations. He formerly was Vice President-Latin American Operations.

BJ Services announces appointments. Eric Koehler was appointed country operations manager-Indonesia, for BJ Tubular Services. He will be responsible for the company’s operations with functions to plan, manage and control operations in line with the overall business strategy and objectives. Andy Elliot was promoted to the newly created position of sales and operations manager-conductor driving services to carry out business development related to conductor driving services in the regions. Additionally, Paul van Laar was appointed as completion fluids manager for the UK. He is based in Aberdeen and will oversee all aspects of operations, business development and management of projects in the UK.

Tesco announces resignation. Bruce Longaker resigned his position with Tesco Corporation as Executive Vice President and CFO effective December 31, 2003. Mr Longaker joined Tesco in April 2003. The company said Mr Longaker’s management approach was not compatible with that of Tesco’s management and board.

Randy Smith acquires company. Randy Smith Training Solutions acquired Alliance Maritime Training LLC (AMT), founded in 1999, that provides US Coast Guard-approved instructional services, consultation and offshore marine support to drilling contractors and floating production facility operators, including Coast Guard approved courses in licensing, stability and ballast control. AMT is headquartered in Houston.

Rubber rod guides. Double-E rubber rod guides can handle well temperatures to 250°F and reduce oilfield production costs by extending the life of sucker rods and tubing while increasing lifting efficiency. They act as bushings that hold rod couplings away from the tubing, thereby reducing rod and tubing wear and related maintenance costs. They enhance lifting performance by helping the rods fall straight without bucking for a longer pump stroke. The guides are manufactured with an ultra-durable rubber compound for long life and efficient service under hot conditions. They are field replaceable and incorporate larger wear surfaces to provide longer life. The rod guides are available for 2¾-in. and 2⅞-in. tubing sizes and sucker rods of 7/8-in. to 1-in. diameter.

High ROP drilling fluid. BP's Amodrill drilling fluid can provide faster ROP in hard rock versus diesel-base mud, according to its data. In hard rock, greater than 15,000 psi compressive strength, Amodrill mud drilled more than 50% faster than diesel muds with similar properties. With increasing depths and rock hardness, the ROP is even higher. Below 2,000 m ROP increased by an average of 84% and below 2,500 m that figure rose to 117%. BP conducted the drilling trials during the past two years.