



## CONTRACTOR NEWS

### Spradling Drilling celebrates 50 years

**Spradling Drilling** is celebrating its 50th year in the business. The company was founded in 1954 by L R "Babe" **Spradling** in Borger, Texas. He was in the oil business for 10 years in the Permian Basin and other areas of Texas, Oklahoma, Wyoming and North Dakota before he moved to Borger, near the top of the Panhandle, in 1953.

He began the company the following year with a \$10,000 loan. Utilizing his welding skills, Babe built his first rig himself out of scrap iron and spare parts. Meantime, his wife **Charlotte** set up the company's office. In 1956, **Spradling Drilling Rig #1** was complet-

ed and **Spradling Drilling** completed their first well for Major Oil Company. Babe continued to work his rig while **Charlotte** was running the office and keeping a tight hand on the money.

Today, operating as **Spradling LP**, the company operates five land rigs in Oklahoma and Texas. The company works on footage, daywork and turnkey contracts.

**Charlotte** is now President & CEO of the company, while sons **Mike** and **Garrett Spradling** are Vice President and Drilling Manager and Vice President and Operations Manager, respectively. ■

### Helmerich & Payne wins national SAFE Award

**Helmerich & Payne IDC** was a National SAFE (Safety Award For Excellence) Award winner in the drilling contractor category. Finalists in the category also included **Diamond Offshore** and **Noble Drilling**. **Helmerich & Payne** also won a SAFE Award from the New Orleans District.

**Stone Energy** was the winner in the High OCS Activity category awarded to operators. Other finalists were **ExxonMobil**, **Kerr-McGee**, **Newfield**

**Exploration** and **Shell E&P**. **ConocoPhillips** won the Moderate OCS Activity SAFE Award. Other finalists in that category included **Dominion E&P**, **Hunt Petroleum**, **Nexen** and **Taylor Energy**.

In the Production Contractor category, **Danos & Curole Marine Contractors** was the winner with **Grasso Production Management** the other finalist. ■

### KCA DEUTAG announces drilling contracts

**KCA DEUTAG** was awarded an additional one-year contract, plus a further one year extension, for rig T-72 in Libya valued at approximately \$11.2 million over two years. **Wintershall Libya**, awarded the contract extension after the completion of the initial one year contract in which several milestones were achieved. An upgrade of the equipment was carried out in a timely fashion and within budget during the rig move after drilling the initial well. This consisted of the installation of an independent electric-driven rotary table and upgrade to the shearing capabilities of

the blow out preventers. **KCA DEUTAG's** mobilization and rig up enabled the initial spud seven days ahead of the target. Additionally, the rig operated throughout the entire year with a 99.74% uptime. The company was also awarded a three-year framework agreement by **EMPG** (ExxonMobil Production Germany) valued at up to \$36 million. The contract is for land drilling services on two deep gas wells located in Northern Germany near Bremen and Hamburg. The first of these is **Kneheim**, which spud on 16 February. The second well was spud in early June. ■

### Atwood drilling contracts

**Atwood Oceanics** said that **Sarawak Shell** has reinstated a contract to utilize the **Atwood Falcon** for two wells with options for three additional wells offshore Malaysia. The dayrate will vary depending upon the water depth: \$83,300 for water depths exceeding 2,500 ft; \$68,300 for water depths between 1,000-2,500 ft; and \$53,000 for water depths less than 1,000 ft. The drilling program will begin around August 1.

**Woodside Energy** contracted the **Atwood Eagle** for two wells with an option for one additional well offshore Australia. The dayrate is \$89,000 for all wells drilling in up to 600 m of water.

**ConocoPhillips** awarded a contract for the **Atwood Beacon** for a drilling program off Indonesia for three firm wells and options for four more wells. The contract calls for a dayrate of \$90,000 for the three firm wells and \$82,400 for any option wells plus a mobilization fee of \$800,000. ■

### Parker announces contracts

**Parker Drilling** was awarded a five-rig, 27-well contract for land drilling operations in southern Mexico. The contract is part of an integrated services contract awarded to **Halliburton de Mexico** by **Pemex**. The contract will include **Parker** rigs 121, 122, 165, 174 and 260 in the **Samaria**, **Iride** and **Cunduacan** fields in the state of **Tabasco**. The rigs were mobilized from locations in **Bolivia** and **Colombia**. Additionally, **Parker** was directly awarded a two-year contract for its barge rig 53 by **Pemex** for work in the **Macuspana** Basin in the inland waters of the state of **Tabasco**. The contracts are **Parker's** initial entry into the Mexican market. ■

### KCA DEUTAG builds new land rig

**KCA DEUTAG** recently took delivery of its 3,000 hp rig T-79 in Dubai. The rig cost approximately \$9.6 million. The rig also features a 1.6 million lb hook-load capacity and three 1,600 hp mud pumps. Features also include engine sound proofing, low engine emissions and zero discharge capability. The rig was constructed at **Lamprell Energy Ltd's** **Jebel Ali** facility. ■