



PEOPLE & COMPANIES

GlobalSantaFe announces management appointment. Chuck Hauf was appointed President of **Challenger Minerals**, a GlobalSantaFe subsidiary. He has been with Challenger since 1995, recently serving as Vice President and General Manager.

Cudd Pressure Control names Vice President. EPI Consultants, a division of Cudd Pressure Control, named **Les Skinner** PE as Vice President Division Manager. He has over 35 years of oilfield experience starting as a roustabout for Phillips Petroleum in 1967. He also spent 20 years working as a drilling, completions and production engineer in various locations for several operators before becoming a well control engineer in 1990.



Les Skinner

Grant Prideco announces management changes. Grant Prideco announced that **Dan Latham** will assume the new position of Vice President, Industry Relations and Account Development. He will be responsible for identifying and coordinating cross-divisional marketing and customer support activities as well as product-line expansion opportunities. **David Black** will assume the position of President-Drilling Products and Services Division. He was previously President-Tubular Technology and Services Division. **Walt Czaus**, the current Vice President, Manufacturing and Accessory Products for the Tubular Technology and Services Division, will assume interim management of the division until a permanent replacement is named.

Keppel awarded follow-up work. BP awarded Keppel a \$20 million contract to integrate the hull sections for the Shah Deniz TPG 500 jackup platform.

International Association of Oil & Gas Producers marks 30th Anniversary. OGP's 56 members encompass large and small companies, publicly held corporations as well as state owned enterprises, national and trade associations and upstream service companies. OGP represents the interests of the upstream industry before international regulatory and legislative bodies, achieves continuous improvement in safety, health and environmental performance and in the engineering and operation of upstream ventures; and promotes awareness of corporate social responsibility issues within the industry and among stakeholders. OGP works through a network of 43 committees, task forces and work groups led by a management committee composed of senior figures in the upstream industry. IADC joined OGP in 2003.

National Oilwell, Varco to merge. National Oilwell and Varco International jointly announced the signing of a definitive merger agreement. Upon closing of the transaction, National Oilwell will change its name to **National Oilwell Varco Inc.**

Pete Miller, President and CEO of National Oilwell, will serve as President and CEO of the combined company. **John Lauletta**, Chairman and CEO of Varco, will serve as Chairman of the Board of the combined company. **Joe Winkler**, President and COO of Varco, will serve as the combined company's COO.

"We expect approximately \$40-\$50 million in annualized pre-tax cost savings and operating synergies to arise from overlapping production facility closures, IT infrastructure rationalization, sales and marketing expense reduction and corporate overhead eliminations that should be achieved by the end of 2005," Mr Miller said.

"National Oilwell Varco will be better positioned to compete effectively in the global market place," he said. "Customers will benefit from our ability to respond with an unparalleled level of quality." ■

PRODUCTS

Remote controlled torquing system. **BJ Tubular Services** announced its Conductor Torquing System, a new system that offers improved safety and operational efficiency when making up or breaking out conductor-threaded connections. With a spinner system that delivers 7,000 lbs/ft, the system is the first of its kind to deliver torques of 150,000 lbs/ft. As a result, conductor make up and breakout and driving operations are carried out more efficiently. The system is designed to operate remotely at extremely high torque levels, increasing efficiency and safety. Only one technician is required to operate the unit from a control unit at a distance from the rotary table. Running costs are lower because fewer personnel are required and working conditions are much safer, according to the company. The Conductor Torquing System and spinner are non-marking systems designed to handle pipe with spe-

cial care. The make-up system is consolidated into one unit, eliminating the need to invest time and manpower to assemble the unit before carrying out a make-up or breakout operations.

Progressing cavity pumps. **Moyno Inc.**, a unit of Robbins & Myers, manufactures the Moyno 2000 pump for heavy-duty applications with the ability to manage abrasive materials in excess of 80% solids with an operating range of 4,500 gpm and pressures up to 1,500 psi. The pump features the crowned gear universal joint drive train configuration for exceptional torque and thrust control. Patented joint seals protect the gear joints from pumpage contamination. The gear joints are lubricated to run at 180°F, far cooler than oil-lubricated joints. The rear gear joint location reduces the radial load on the drive shaft and bearings and requires minimal pump disassembly to service. ■