

SPE/IADC Drilling Conference goes 'Back to Basic\$?'

THE 2005 SPE/IADC Drilling Conference, the industry's premier technical event, is set for 23-25 Feb at the RAI Congress Centre in Amsterdam. This year's theme is *Drilling Technology: Back to Basic\$?*.

The three plenary sessions are designed around important dilemmas facing the industry such as funding, ownership, sharing and application of the technologies that are needed to develop the complex and challenging wells in today's environment.

The conference features 18 technical sessions with more than 100 papers focusing on such timely topics as development of new technology, use of proven technology, cutting edge performance and applications in challenging environments.



Mike Harris
Conference Chairman

Following opening of the conference by Chairman **Mike Harris, Apache Corporation**, remarks will be made by 2005 IADC Chairman **Edward D Kautz** and 2005 SPE President **Giovanni**

Paccaloni.

The SPE Drilling Engineering Award will be presented to **Robert F Mitchell** during the conference. Mr Mitchell is a Research Fellow in the R&D division of **Landmark Graphics**.

He has published over 60 papers on wellbore and well completion problems, including wellbore thermal flow simulation, drillstring mechanics, tubing buckling analysis, Arctic well completions, tubular stress analysis and geomechanics.

Mr Mitchell was vice president of Enertech Engineering and Research company and worked at Exxon Production Research. He holds a BA, MME and Ph.D. degrees from Rice University and is a registered professional engineer in Texas.

PLENARY SESSIONS

The first plenary session on 23 Feb will examine **New Technology Development – Who Should be Responsible**.

Panelists will include **Paul Ching**, Director of Research and Development, **Shell International E&P**; **Tony Meggs**, Senior Vice President, Group Technology, **BP**; **Steven Newman**, Vice President of Performance and Technology, **Transocean**; **Satish Pai**, Vice President, **Schlumberger Oilfield Technologies**; and **Don Paul**, Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, **ChevronTexaco**.

In the drive to reduce costs, operators may inadvertently stifle the development of new technology and thereby the future wellbeing of the contractors.

The panelists will address issues surrounding the development, funding and deployment of drilling technology.

These issues include whether E&P companies should take the lead in the development cycle; can E&P companies and contractors work together to understand



and find solutions to the physical phenomenon of production decline while maintaining traditional roles.

Also, can close cooperation and alignment be achieved while retaining the financial focus or maintaining a competitive edge?

The second plenary session on 24 Feb will focus on *Drilling Technologies – Failure or Just Ahead of its Time?*

Panelists will include **Marvin Gearhart**, President, **RBI-Gearhart**; **Mads**

Grinrod, Vice President, Drilling & Well Technology, **Statoil**; **Jon Marshall**, President and CEO, **GlobalSantaFe**; **Tim Probert**, Senior Vice President, Drilling and Formation Evaluation, **Halliburton** ESG; and **Graham Robertson**, Wells Manager, **Shell E&P Europe**.

This session will focus on both technology failures and successes with suggestions on what seemed to have made the difference.

Examples of using different business models, funding approaches and commercial arrangements will be shared.

Key issues surrounding intellectual property, prototype testing and risk sharing will be discussed.

The panelists will provide their thoughts on what the industry should consider doing differently in order to increase successes and reduce failures.

The third and final plenary session will be held 25 Feb and will examine *Mature Well Technologies – A Growing Challenge*.

Panelists include **Oman Al-Husaini**, Manager of Gas Drilling Operation Department, **Saudi Aramco**; **John Crum**, Executive Vice President, **Apache Corporation**; **John Gerstenlauer**, Managing Director, **Wintershall**; **Jon Goodale**, Vice President North Sea Operations, **GlobalSantaFe**; and **Garry Warren**, President, Drilling and Well Services, **Weatherford**.

A cursory look at most E&P companies' portfolios reveals an increasing number of mature assets and more application of secondary and tertiary recovery techniques.

This plenary session will examine the question of what the industry needs to do to answer the call for technologies and business solutions in mature fields with the priority of doing things more efficiently and cost effectively while meeting ever more stringent HSE requirements.

The panelists will share their experiences and opinions on the needs and approaches that the industry should be taking to address this fast growing issue.

Key factors such as establishing priorities of the needs and funding developments in a low cost environment will be explored. ■