

PEOPLE, COMPANIES & PRODUCTS

Pride names 3 to Latin American operations

PRIDE INTERNATIONAL has named **K George Wasaff** as CEO for the company's Latin America Land and E&P Services division. Additionally **James M Mitchell** has joined Pride as chief financial officer, and **Carlos F Etcheverry** has been named chief operating officer, both for Latin America Land and E&P Services.

Since 2005, Mr Wasaff had been executive VP, worldwide operations at **Ashmore Energy International** and

senior VP of operations and administration of **Prisma Energy**.

Mr Mitchell joins the company from **Grant Prideco**, where he had been employed since 1999, most recently as treasurer. Mr Etcheverry had served as vice president of E&P Services since 2005. He joined the company in 2002 and was previously employed by **Halliburton**, where he served as country manager, Argentina and business development manager. ♠

Pioneer Drilling chairman Michael Little dies

MICHAEL E LITTLE, chairman of **Pioneer Drilling Company**, unexpectedly passed away on 13 January.

C Robert Bunch has been elected by Pioneer Drilling's Board to succeed Mr Little as chairman.

"Mike Little was an extraordinary leader with a keen understanding of the drilling industry," said **Wm Stacy Locke**,



Michael Little

Pioneer Drilling's president and CEO. "He was a dedicated leader during Pioneer Drilling's critical early growth years, and we will deeply miss him. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to Mike's family, including his wife Melanie and three children."

Mr Little joined Pioneer Drilling as chairman and CEO in 1998 when it had only 6 rigs. It now has 63.

Mr Bunch has been a director of Pioneer Drilling since May 2004 and has served on the audit, nominating and corporate governance and compensation committees. ♠

Wire Rope Corporation of America acquires Wireline Works

WIRE ROPE CORPORATION of **America** announced the acquisition of privately held **Wireline Works**. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed. Canadian-based Wireline Works, founded in 2003, manufactures electro-

mechanical data logging cables used in cased hole applications.

"We are very excited to add Wireline Works to our family of companies," said **Ira Glazer**, WRCA CEO. ♠

Knowledge Systems names 7 to Houston, London, Australia offices

KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS HAS named 7 people to fill new positions created as part of its global expansion. Five will join North American operations based in Houston, and two are assigned to new offices in London, UK, and Perth, Australia.

Steve Hobart will serve as senior technical advisor for global operations. **Alejandro Arboleda** will relocate to London to serve as EAME (Europe,

Africa and Middle East) business development manager. **Sean Mauk** joins the Australian office as Asia/Pacific business development manager. **Josh Webster** will support industry projects as account manager-product sales. **Sue Pritchett** joins Knowledge Systems as account manager - North America service sales. **Steve Vest** and **Joshua Evans** both join the company as account managers - North America software sales. ♠

National Oilwell Varco names VP of corporate development

TOM MCGEE HAS been promoted to vice president of corporate development for National Oilwell Varco. He will be responsible for negotiating and executing strategic transactions for the company and will report to **Clay Williams**, chief financial officer. Mr McGee graduated with a BA degree in economics with honors from Vanderbilt University. He also holds an MBA from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. Mr McGee is succeeding **John Gatlin**, who is joining NOV's Rig Solutions division as vice president operations - China. ♠

Superior Energy Services names VP of business development

SUPERIOR ENERGY SERVICES has named **Chuck Malley** vice president of business development for the Well Solutions

Group's Rocky Mountain region. Mr Malley has been with the company for 5 years, most recently as the vice president of sales and marketing for the production maintenance group in New Orleans.



Chuck Malley

Superior Energy Services also recently completed the acquisition of **Warrior Energy Services Corp**, a natural gas and oil well services company, for about \$175 million in cash and 5.3 million shares of common stock. ♠

MMS names associate director

CHRIS OYNES HAS been named the new associate director of the US Minerals Management Service's Offshore Minerals Management Program. Mr Oynes has served as regional director of MMS's Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Region for the past 13 years. He will be responsible for managing the MMS Offshore program to help meet the nation's energy needs and protect the ocean and coastal environment. ♠

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Balmoral announces orders

BALMORAL OFFSHORE Engineering has announced multi-million pound orders for subsea buoyancy and polyurethane products destined for Angola, Brazil, China and Norway. Distributed and marine drilling riser buoyancy modules, modular subsurface buoyancy, PU bend restrictors and cable protection make up the bulk of the projects and are among the first to go through the company's new manufacturing plant in Aberdeen, which has created more than 50 jobs in less than a year. ♠

InterMoor promotes Gulf of Mexico sales coordinator

INTERMOOR, AN ACTEON company, has promoted **Kathy Legnon** to Gulf of Mexico sales coordinator. Ms Legnon has more than 20 years of experience in the mooring and anchor-handling business, with 10 years on the InterMoor sales team. She will work with **Brad Adkins**, InterMoor vice president of sales and marketing, to help coordinate the scheduling, distribution and maintenance of all information as it applies to the growth and improvement of the company's overall sales efforts in the Gulf of Mexico. ♠

Well Control School opens training facility in Wyoming

THE WELL CONTROL SCHOOL announced the opening of a new training facility in Rock Springs, Wyo. It will offer instructor-led and computer-based well control training. For more information, please visit www.wellcontrol.com. ♠

• PRODUCTS •

Logan Oil Tools offers jarring tool with valve section

THE LOGAN SUPERIOR Hydraulic Fishing Jar is a straight pull, up only jarring tool that uses a special valve section to meter oil from one chamber of the piston to the other chamber to allow controlled jarring action during a stuck fish recovery. The operating chambers are sealed and isolated from each other to prevent contamination of the metering section and the well. During downhole jarring operation, jarring blow is infinitely adjustable without rig floor adjustments. The straight pull load applied by the operator controls the intensity of the jarring blow. Logan Superior

Hydraulic Fishing Jars are hydrostatically pressure balanced, and maximum inside diameters permit passage of wireline tools. Its large mandrel design makes it well suited for fishing, milling and washover operations. ♠



The Liebherr LR 1200 crawler crane.

Crawler crane operates with 292-ft max main boom

THE 250-TON LIEBHERR LR 1200 crawler crane can operate with a 292-ft maximum main boom, 384-ft long-reach "L" type top and 486 ft of luffing jib combination. The luffing jib outlifts 300-ton rated cranes, and no additional winch option is required to run 2 load lines. A midfall short insert is available that can be put in different locations with the same jib length. Fixed jibs, rooters and LR 1280 luffing jibs are interchangeable throughout the LR model line. Line speeds range from 425 fpm standard to 725 fpm with optional high-speed winch.

An advanced online LMI/LML calculation system allows the crane to operate in luffing jib configurations with the main boom angle between 44° and 89°. ♠

System halves oil-in-water discharge

A PRODUCED WATER polishing system designed and operated by **M-I Epron AS**, a division of M-I SWACO, cuts in half the amount of oil-contaminated water requiring disposal on the **Chevron**-operated Alba platform in the UK sector of the North Sea.

The produced water volume on Alba is 300,000 bbl/day, which is among the highest output in the North Sea. The produced water treatment system, comprising 8 compact flotation units and a separate vessel to collect recovered oil, has a design capacity for 360,000 bbl/day.

Phase 2 of the Alba project is the initiation of a water re-injection pilot in mid-2007

engineered to inject 60,000 bbl of water/day back into the Alba reservoir via an existing water injection well. ♠

Extra-tough winch from Thern

THERN INC HAS introduced an extra-tough winch into the market with its Big Red TA Series heavy-duty air winches. Big Red TA Series winches are built to withstand severe weather conditions such as sand storms. Along with the steel frame and rugged band brake, the Big Red TA Series features a radial piston air motor with a cast housing that adds longevity to the winch life cycle while providing the powerful torque needed for lifting heavy equipment. The winches are offered in a wide range of base models. ♠