

LOI signed for Noble Jim Day; Noble Johnnie Hoffman: no LTI in 12 years

NOBLE DRILLING SERVICES has signed a letter of intent for its Noble Bingo 9000 Rig 4 semisubmersible hull for a 2-year contract with a subsidiary of **Marathon Oil Corp.** The Noble Bingo 9000 Rig 4, which will be renamed the Noble Jim Day, will be completed as a dynamically positioned (DPS-3) unit designed to operate in water depths up to 12,000 ft with living accommodations for 200 people. The unit's highly efficient operational design will follow that of the Noble Danny Adkins, currently under construction in Singapore.

The company expects Marathon to use the Noble Jim Day in the US Gulf of Mexico during the initial 2 years of service.

The LOI is contingent on negotiation and execution of a definitive drilling contract mutually acceptable to both Noble and Marathon. Noble estimates the rig will be delivered in the 4th quarter of 2009.

"One of our goals for 2007 was to have a commitment on the Noble Bingo 9000 Rig 4 by the end of the 1st quarter. This achievement is especially meaningful, for it allows the employees to recognize Jim's contribution to Noble and the

entire energy industry," said **Mark A Jackson**, Noble president and CEO.

Separately, the Noble Johnnie Hoffman has achieved 12 years without a lost-time incident, setting a record among Noble's fleet. "The crews and management of the Noble Johnnie Hoffman have reset the bar once again," said **Kerrie Peyton**, Noble manager of HSE & quality. "This accomplishment demonstrates that with teamwork and dedication, things once thought impossible become reality."

The jackup is operating offshore Mexico for **PEMEX**. ♠



Coastal Drilling's Rig 22 is leaving the shipyard after 17 months of construction.

Coastal Drilling's barge rig completed, land rig goes to work in East Texas

COASTAL DRILLING'S RIG 22, a 3,000-hp posted barge, will be leaving the SEMCO Shipyard after 17 months of construction. Rig 22 was built targeting deep gas prospects, said Coast Drilling president **Chris McClanahan**.

The rig will be able to drill to 35,000 ft using 5 1/2-in. drill pipe. It has a 2 million-lb mast, a 2,200-bbl mud capacity and a 15,000-psi choke manifold. A cementing unit was also added to help operators save time.

Mr McClanahan noted that MMS personnel toured Rig 22 while it

was in the shipyard on invitation from Coastal. MMS commented they were pleased to see new iron coming to work and mentioned that Coastal was the first inland barge driller to invite them to inspect their rig, he said.

Separately, Coastal Drilling's new 2,000-hp Rig 15 for land drilling went on its first job in mid-April, Mr McClanahan said. It is working in East Texas for **Meridien Resources** on a 1-year contract. It was built in Houston by **Applied Machinery** over the period of a year. ♠

Atwood's Richmond semi to drill 4 more wells for Helis

ATWOOD OCEANICS ANNOUNCED that **Helis Oil & Gas** has exercised its remaining option to have the Richmond semisubmersible drill 4 additional wells immediately following completion of its current commitment with Helis. Drilling of the 4 additional wells is expected to be completed in September/October 2007. ♠



Essar Wildcat semisubmersible reactivation completed

GLOBAL RESOURCES HAS completed a major reactivation program onboard the **Essar Oil** semisubmersible rig **Essar Wildcat**, formerly the **Transocean Wildcat**. The rig had been cold-stacked since 2002 and required recertification before being towed to Indian waters to commence drilling in the 3rd quarter of 2007. A wide range of work has been carried out on the semi, including special periodic surveys, AKER modifications, the re-commissioning and recertification of deck cranes, and the upgrading of mud pipework and mud pumps. ♠

Cactus Rig 129 wins Marathon contractor HES excellence award

CACTUS DRILLING'S RIG 129 has been awarded **Marathon Oil Co's** 2006 Contractor HES Excellence Award. Over the past year, Rig 129 had no recordable, lost-time or environmental incidents.

At the end of 2005, Cactus 129 was refurbished and initiated operations with Marathon. According to Marathon, since then Cactus has demonstrated HES leadership through its internal and external communications, leadership training, equipment improvements and personnel, supervision and staffing decisions. Cactus' adoption of leadership training as a primary tool in effective HES performance was cited as paramount in its task of drilling wells efficiently and safely. Cactus' personnel also held themselves personally accountable for HES performance, both individually and collectively. Marathon recognized Cactus for taking a proactive approach to all HES issues by identifying hazards and adopting avail-



Cactus Drilling's Rig 129 had no recordable, lost-time or environmental incidents in 2006. It has been selected by Marathon Oil as the winner of its 2006 Contractor HES Excellence Award.

able technologies and practices to mitigate those hazards with "a willingness to expend whatever means — time, personnel, expense — necessary to protect the personnel." ♪

2006 MMS SAFE Award winners announced

THE MINERALS MANAGEMENT Service (MMS) has announced the winners of its 2006 District Safety Award for Excellence (SAFE) honors in the Gulf of Mexico. The SAFE program recognizes and commends those operating companies that expend extra effort and conduct their operations in a safe manner. In the drilling contractor category, the winners are: **Nabors Offshore Corp.**, New Orleans district; **Noble Drilling (US)**, Houma district; **Transocean**, Lafayette district; **Rowan Drilling Co** — Rowan Bob Keller, Lake Charles district; **Diamond Offshore Drilling**, Lake Jackson district. ♪

KCA DEUTAG jackup awarded 3-year contract

KCA DEUTAG, A subsidiary of **Abbot Group**, has been awarded a 36-month contract by **CNR International** for the jackup Ben Avon (formerly named Songa Tellus), working in the Olowi field, offshore Gabon. The contract, which has a commencement window between 1 April-30 June 2008, is valued at more than US\$170 million. The contract will significantly enhance Abbot's existing operations in Gabon, where KCA DEUTAG has 2 land rigs on contract to **Addax Petroleum**. ♪

Marathon drills discovery well in deepwater GOM

MARATHON OIL CORP announced it has drilled a deepwater discovery well in the Gulf of Mexico on Green Canyon Block 244. The Droshky #1 well, previously named Troika Deep, is located approximately 137 miles south-southwest of Venice, La., in approximately 2,900 ft of water. The well was drilled to a total depth of 21,190 ft and encountered high-quality oil-bearing reservoirs. Based on log information, the well is estimated to have about 250 ft of net oil pay.

"Preliminary results suggest that the Droshky #1 well is a commercial discovery with development likely through the Troika Unit infrastructure, which is located approximately 2 miles from the Droshky well," said **Philip G Behrman**, Marathon senior vice president of worldwide exploration. ♪



ENSCO 108 jackup delivered from Singapore on time, within budget

ENSCO INTERNATIONAL announced that ENSCO 108 has been delivered. It is an enhanced KFELS B class design jackup rig constructed by **Keppel FELS** in Singapore. Delivered on time and within budget, the rig is contracted to work in Indonesia until the 2nd quarter of 2008 with term extension options of up to 2 years that could be exercised by the customer.

With the addition of ENSCO 108, the company's premium jackup fleet increases to 44 rigs, 10 of which are new ultra-high specification rigs built over the last 7 years. ♪

The recently delivered ENSCO 108 was built with the same design as ENSCO 107, seen at left. ENSCO now has 44 rigs in its premium jackup fleet.