

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

- **Marine and Mineral Projects**, a South African firm, developed a multireel drive system for laying pipelines and umbilicals that allows 10 reels to be loaded in two rows of five and has a drive system that moves from reel to reel rather than the norm of loading the reel into the reel-drive system.
- **Global Resource**, a developer of a patent-pending microwave technology and machinery for extracting oil and gas, signed a research agreement with Dinesh Agrawal at **Pennsylvania State University**, a nationally recognized authority on microwave technology, to conduct research on the commercialization of its technology to extract hydrocarbons from oil shale. Agrawal is professor of materials science and director of the Microwave Processing and Engineering Center at the university.
- **Modec** formed a joint-development agreement with **Velocys** and **Toyo Engineering** to develop and commercialize gas-to-liquids (GTL) facilities for offshore applications. Modec specializes in floating production and storage, Velocys is in the field of microchannel process technology, and Toyo Engineering has more than 45 years and 1,400 projects of plant-design experience. The agreement is expected to result in a commercial offshore GTL facility by 2012.
- **Chevron** and **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** announced an energy research program to develop remote, ultradeepwater exploration and production technology. The USD 5-million Chevron Remote and Ultra-Deepwater Research Program will focus on developing the technologies required to access hydrocarbons in water depths up to and greater than 3000 m in a safe, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly manner.

MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

- **Fugro Seismic Imaging** acquired **4th Wave Imaging**, an advanced-

seismic-imaging technology company, specializing in time-lapse reservoir monitoring, rock- and fluid-property estimation, and multicomponent seismic analysis. The advanced technology and global expertise 4th Wave Imaging brings are intended to complement and expand Fugro's extensive range of offerings in the field of time-lapse reservoir services.

- **Arcapita**, a private equity investment firm, acquired **Varel Holdings** from **KRG Capital Partners** for approximately USD 369 million. Headquartered in Carrollton, Texas, Varel produces polycrystalline-diamond compact and roller-cone bits for the oil and gas drill-bit market, as well as roller-cone bits for other mining and industrial applications.
- **National Oilwell Varco** entered a definitive merger agreement to acquire **Grant Prideco**. National Oilwell Varco's proposed cash and stock offer values Grant Prideco at USD 7.4 billion. Grant Prideco shareholders will receive USD 23.20 per share in cash and 0.45 shares of National Oilwell Varco for each share of Grant Prideco.
- **BP** acquired a half share in the Sunrise field in Alberta, Canada, operated by **Husky Energy**. At the same time, Husky will acquire a half share in BP's oil refinery in Toledo, Ohio, between them forming an integrated North American oil-sands business. Sunrise field, located in the Athabasca oil sands in northeast Alberta, is expected to be sanctioned in 2008, with first production of bitumen in 2012, building to 200,000 BOPD by the end of the next decade with a 40-year production plateau.

CORPORATE MOVES

- **Halliburton** opened its first globally focused technology center outside North America and Europe. The 5575-m² facility, approximately 170 km southwest of Mumbai, India, will facilitate

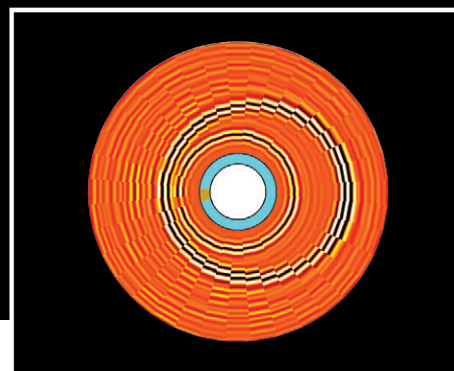
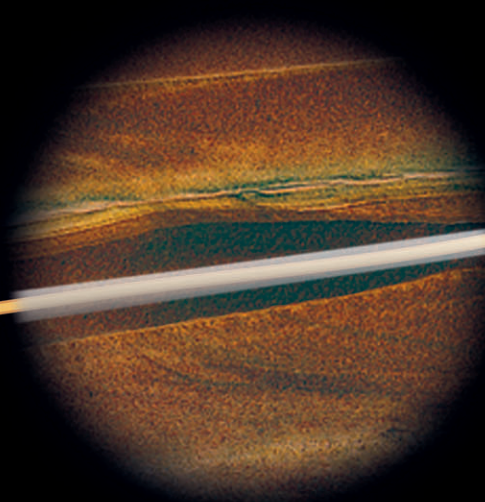
global research and development across Halliburton's Completion and Production and Drilling and Evaluation divisions.

- **Geotrace**, a reservoir-services company that provides subsurface imaging, opened a marketing office in Dubai. Geotrace's Europe, Africa, and Middle East Land Imaging Services operations will be managed out of Dubai and will initially handle marketing for Geotrace in the United Arab Emirates and Gulf region.

CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

- **Seadrill** was awarded a 1-year extension by **Total** for the self-erecting tender rig T-8. The contract extension is in direct continuation of existing operations and is expected to keep the unit employed until May 2009. The estimated value of the contract extension is USD 45 million. T-8 is currently performing production drilling offshore Republic of Congo, west Africa.
- **BJ Tubular Services** was awarded a contract by **CNR International**, a subsidiary of **Canadian Natural Resources**, to provide a range of well services offshore Côte d'Ivoire. The 12-month contract provides for casing and tubing running, completion assembly, and onshore bucking services for five well workovers and for one new well on CNR's developments on the Baobab and Espoir fields.
- **Hercules Offshore** was awarded 3-year contracts for the Hercules 258 and Hercules 260 jackup rigs for drilling operations offshore India from **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation**. The Hercules 258 is expected to start in midsecond quarter 2008, while the Hercules 260 is expected to start in late first quarter 2008. Possible revenue for each contract totals approximately USD 121 million for Hercules 258 and USD 156.6 million for Hercules 260. **JPT**

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