

### EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

- **Information Systems Laboratories** and the **Scripps Institution of Oceanography** completed the first phase of a project to more quickly detect areas of the ocean floor that are likely sites of oil and natural gas deposits. The recent tests, completed off the coast of San Diego, California, were able to measure subtle changes in gravity from an autonomous underwater vehicle maneuvering in 3,000 ft of water.
- **Geotrace** announced its participation in the Edinburgh Anisotropy project as a 3-year sponsor. This sponsorship will allow Geotrace to further enhance its four component processing and participate in research into anisotropic capabilities. The project's objective is to investigate the application of seismic anisotropy to the oil industry.

### MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

- **PetroSkills** and its parent company, **OGCI**, acquired **PetrEX International**, a provider of drilling training and consulting to the oil and gas industry. PetrEX International offers a blend of programs that span technical, interpersonal, and safety competencies through training media and personnel.
- **INTEC Engineering** and **WorleyParsons Sea** merged into an entity titled **INTECSEA**. INTEC Engineering was acquired by WorleyParsons Sea in April 2008. As a result of the transition, the companies decided to combine full deepwater, subsea, pipeline, and floating production capability into a single entity.
- **Weatherford** acquired **International Logging**, a provider of surface logging. International Logging provides formation evaluation and drilling related services at the well-site through the work of more than 1,200 graduate field geologists located in more than 55 countries.

### CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

- **Scorpion Offshore** signed a 6-year contract with **Petrobras** for a new-build deepwater semisubmersible for operations offshore Brazil. Scor-

pion Offshore ordered a DSS-38 from **Keppel Fels** with delivery in December 2011. The rig will be a four column semisubmersible capable of drilling wells to 8500 m in water depths up to 2400 m.

- **Pride International's** deepwater semisubmersible rig, the **Pride South Pacific**, was awarded a two-well, estimated 90-day contract by an international oil and gas E&P company for drilling operations offshore west Africa. The contract is expected to start early July 2009, following the completion of an existing contract commitment offshore Angola and mobilization to the location.
- **BHP Billiton** and **ExxonMobil Australia** subsidiary, **Esso Australia Resources**, approved an expenditure of USD 1.1 billion for the full field development of the Turrum oil and gas field, a hydrocarbon resource in the Gippsland basin, offshore Victoria, Australia. The Turrum development will produce supplies of natural gas and liquids through existing Bass Strait facilities.
- **BJ Services'** tubular services line was awarded a contract to provide a range of well services in Gabon, Africa, by **CNR International**, a subsidiary of **Canadian Natural Resources**. The 4-year contract includes casing-and-tubing running, cold cutting, and onshore tubular make-up and bucking services for 29 wells on CNR International's Olowi development.
- **ATP Oil & Gas** secured four more drilling rigs for 2008 and 2009 in addition to two rigs, the **Nabors 202** and **Diamond Ocean Confidence**. The additional rigs are the **Seadrill Americas'** **West Sirius**, the **Hercules Rig 211**, the **Ensco 72**, and the **Diamond Ocean Victory**.
- **Expro** was awarded a well testing services and production clean-up contract from **StatoilHydro**. It will involve exploration work in Norway and production clean-ups in the North Sea and the Norwegian Sea.
- **Subsea 7** was awarded a USD 100-million contract from **StatoilHydro** for engineering, procurement, construction, and installa-

tion of the **Troll B Gas Injection** project in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea. The project will be developed with two separate subsea satellite wells, located respectively 3.5 and 6.5 km south of the **Troll B** platform.

- **StatoilHydro** extended contracts with **Halliburton**, **M-I Swaco**, and **Schlumberger** for cementing and fluid services in the Norwegian offshore sector. The extensions are collectively valued at NOK 2.5 billion. The contract extension with Halliburton comprises fluid and cementing services on several installations, M-I Swaco is for fluid services, and Schlumberger includes cementing services.
- **Wellstream do Brasil Industria e Servicos**, a wholly owned subsidiary of **Wellstream Holdings**, received a 4-year framework agreement from **Petrobras**. The contract covers the procurement of standard 2.5 to 9.5-in flowlines and risers between 2009 and 2012.
- **PGS Mexicana**, a wholly owned subsidiary of **Petroleum Geo-Services**, was awarded a contract by **Pemex** for an onshore seismic survey in the states of Veracruz and Puebla, Mexico. The survey will be carried out from 2008 to 2012. The area to be surveyed is more than 2000 km<sup>2</sup>. The total contract value is approximately USD 165 million.
- **Atwood Oceanics** announced that the **Atwood Aurora**, a **LeTourneau Super 116E Jackup** currently being constructed in Brownsville, Texas, by **Atwood Oceanics Pacific**, was awarded a contract by **RWE Dea Nile** for work offshore Egypt. This contract is 2 years at an operating dayrate of USD 165,000.

### GENERAL

- **Houston Technology Center** received a USD 100,000 donation from **Shell** to support the acceleration and commercialization of emerging technology companies in key sectors including energy, information technology, life sciences, nanotechnology, and NASA/aerospace technologies. **JPT**

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