

## Drilling Conference Covers Leading-Edge Applications

Advancing global drilling technologies, finding solutions to common problems, and improving efficiency and profitability will be the focus of the 2008 SPE/IADC Drilling Conference, to be held 4–6 March in Orlando, Florida. The conference, to be held at the Caribe Royale Orlando All-Suites Resort and Convention Center, carries the theme “Sustainable Strategies for Today’s Realities.”

In addition to technical paper sessions and an exhibition area, there will be three plenary sessions covering critical issues in the drilling and production sector. SPE’s annual Drilling Engineering Award will also be presented during the conference. The technical coverage encompasses

- Traditional drilling technology
- Completions and field development
- Deepwater and subsea
- People; planning; and health, safety, and environment
- Leading and new technology
- Case histories



Ferguson



Goodfellow

### Plenary Session Details

The first plenary session—“Operating Cost: Validation, Consequences, and Solutions”—will examine the accelerating costs of drilling and production during the current healthy price environment. Topics to be discussed include the spiraling costs of oil-field services, downtime costs, high day rates, shortages of equipment,



Mathieson



Puckett

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| <b>CIPC/SPE GTS 2008 Joint Conference</b> .....                      | <b>Paper proposals due 7 January 2008</b>  |
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| 20–22 October 2008 in Perth, Australia                               |  |
| <b>Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition</b> .....              | <b>Paper proposals due 28 January 2008</b> |
| 21–24 September 2008 in Denver, Colorado, USA                        |  |
| <b>International Petroleum Technology Conference</b> .....           | <b>Paper proposals due 4 February 2008</b> |
| 3–5 December 2008 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia                          |  |



and constraints on staffing. Potential solutions to these problems will be discussed, as well as technology's role in alleviating the impact. The panel will be moderated by Paul Goodfellow, regional wells manager with Shell E&P Americas. Panelists will include William Coates, president North America, Schlumberger; Michael Holly, executive vice president, Celerant Consulting; Stuart Ferguson, senior vice president and chief technology officer, Weatherford; Kevin Neveau, chief executive officer of Precision Drilling; and Kevin Carey, general manager, Deepwater and Complex Wells, Chevron.

### Technology Challenges

A second plenary, "Technology—The Key to Finding and Producing Difficult Hydrocarbons," will examine the use of technology in discovering and producing difficult-to-find hydrocarbons. Even though technology has been the key to the industry's ability to find and produce oil and gas in more-difficult places and cir-

cumstances, the challenges in finding and producing hydrocarbons today have become even more difficult, both technically and economically. The moderator of this session will be Charlie Williams, chief scientist, Well Engineering, Production Technology, Shell International Exploration and Production Technology. Panelists will be Hesketh Streeter, vice president Energy Consulting for Latin America, Wood Mackenzie; Gregers Kudsk, vice president, Engineering and Projects, Maersk Contractors; Derek Mathieson, president and chief executive officer, WellDynamics; Mark B. Puckett, president, Chevron Energy Technology; and Merrilee C. Gordon, vice president Upstream Shell Global Solutions.

### Staffing Crunch

A third plenary looks at "Roadmap to the Future: People and Processes." The current boom in drilling activity and worldwide demand is putting new strains on the upstream industry. In the next 3 years, more than 120

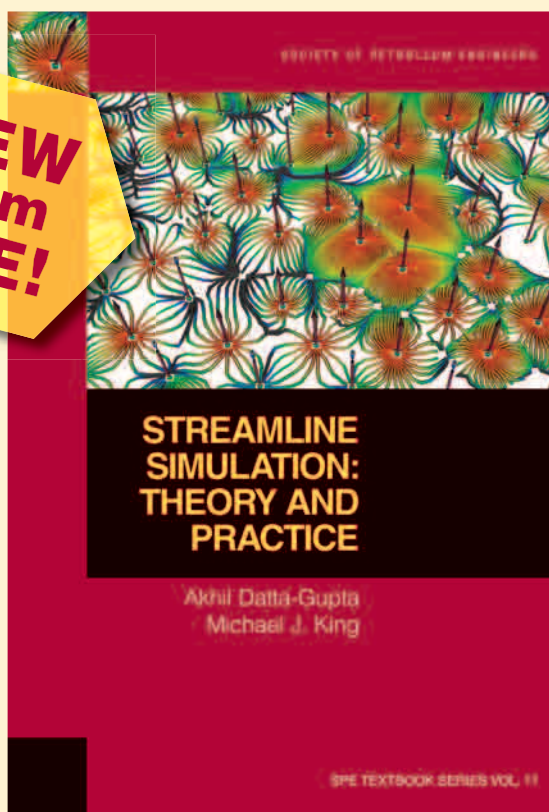
new offshore rigs will join the drilling fleet, with average personnel requirements of approximately 200 to operate and support each rig. The estimate for new land-rig builds worldwide in 2007 was 750. Meanwhile, demand for top technical staff in the industry stands at its highest level in more than a quarter of a century. Among the issues this panel will discuss are accelerating the competency curve for the thousands of new hires who will join the industry, the processes and methods that will evolve to sustain the industry's growth, and the recruitment sources and techniques that will be needed for the future. Panelists at this session will be Ross Richardson, director of Human Resources with KCA Deutag; Didier Charreton, vice president of Human Resources with Baker Hughes; and Walter A.F. Simpson, general manager, Operations and Well Engineering, BG Group.

For more information on the drilling conference, please visit [www.spe.org](http://www.spe.org).

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