

Drilling Conference Focuses on the Right People and Technology

Erica Shillings, *JPT* Assistant Features Editor

With the theme “Total Value Drilling: Right People, Right Process, Right Technology,” the 2009 SPE/IADC Drilling Conference and Exhibition will offer a platform for the industry to advance worldwide drilling operations, promote solutions to common problems, and improve overall efficiency and profitability. The conference, to be held 17–19 March in Amsterdam at the RAI Congress Center, will include these technical topics:

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

The technical program includes more than 135 technical papers and three plenary sessions. Technical sessions will take place each day during the conference. Attendees can view new products and services by exhibitors showcasing advanced technology, services, and expertise.

In addition to technical and plenary sessions, the conference will feature Knowledge Sharing Sessions. These sessions will promote discussion and interaction among the authors and participants. The intent is to share best practices and encourage networking. The Knowledge Sharing Sessions will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on each day of the conference. To benefit from the evolution of presentation technologies, authors are encouraged to present their work using a laptop presentation. This should ease the preparation for the presentation and allow more interactivity; however, classical poster-type presentation is still permissible. Authors may present with a poster, a laptop, or both.

The SPE Drilling Engineering Award will be presented during Tuesday’s Plenary Session. Phillip D. Pattillo, BP, is the 2009 award recipient. This award recognizes outstanding achievements or contributions to the advancement of the discipline.

A young professionals luncheon will be held from 12:45 to 2 p.m. on Wednesday. Young professionals, members 35 years and under, will be able to discuss industry and career topics with experienced professionals. To participate in this luncheon, young professionals need to register for the event online and check the young professional box. An SPE staff member will then contact the young professional with additional details.

Plenary Sessions



Goligher



Haden



MacGregor



Newman



Sharpe

On Tuesday, the first plenary session “Right People for the Next 30 Years?” will be moderated by Alison Goligher, Technical Director, Middle East and

South Asia, Shell, and feature panelists Steve Haden, Head of Drilling and Completions, Eastern Hemisphere, BP; Catherine MacGregor, Vice President Personnel, Schlumberger; Steven Newman, President and Chief Operating Officer, Transocean; and Peter Sharpe, Vice President Wells, Shell International E&P. The session will address the issue: How are we to ensure we have the right people and in the right numbers to take us through the next 30 years? Panelists will share their perspectives on this crucial challenge, the outlook, and what can be done. Additional topics to be discussed include changes in the demographics of the workforce, changes arising from the skill set requirements, changes in the expectations of the recruits to the industry, changes from international to national workers, and consequences of this transformation.

The second plenary session, “Technology—Evolution or Revolution?” will take place on Wednesday. The panel and audience will be asked to offer insights into where they see the opportunities for the industry in technology terms over the next 20–30 years. The session will discuss what has been the enabling environment that has allowed both the evolution and revolution in technology in the wells business and what will be the next game changers. Session topics will include

- Will we have an emergence of revolutionary technology that changes the game in hydrocarbon exploitation by a designer well custom made for a specific application?



Bastos



Bloom



Cook



Juran



Kjørholt

• What will we need to do to continue as an industry to develop and exploit hydrocarbons in a safe and environmentally friendly manner, and what will the

contribution of technology be?

• What will it take to deliver technology to the field faster and ensure we can replicate effectively around the globe so that the projected value to be derived can be realized for the shareholder allowing continued opportunities for technology investment?

• What will we need to do to continue the technology advancements within the cyclic fiscal nature of the oil and gas business?

The panel will be moderated by Lance Cook, Global Wells Technology Manager, Shell. Panelists for this session will include Luis Cortes Xavier Bastos, General Manager of Well Construction Engineering, Petrobras; Bob Bloom, Senior Vice President, National Oilwell Varco; Tim Juran, Executive Vice President, Seadrill Americas; and Halvor Kjørholt, Chief Researcher Drilling and Completions, StatoilHydro.



Arango



Brett



Burns



Gauche




McCallum

On Thursday, a third plenary session "Right Process: Integrating People and Technology to Create Value" will be moderated by Jerry Gauche, Vice President,

Organizational Effectiveness, National Oilwell Varco, and will include panelists Guillermo Arango, Director, Operations Information Technology, Baker Hughes; Ford Brett, Managing Director of PetroSkills Alliance and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Oil & Gas Consultants; Mark


Burns, President, Ensco Offshore International; and James McCallum, CEO, Senergy. One of the huge challenges the industry faces is the rapid growth over recent years of rising oil prices and the excess of new rigs entering the system. This combined with those retiring will put huge pressures on the industry to acquire new personnel and rapidly promote those within the industry while maintaining competence. Technology also continues to develop at an exponential rate with wells being successfully drilled that would not have even been conceived a decade ago. The session will discuss the importance of personnel being trained and competent to operate both existing and new technology as effectively as possible and with a minimum learning curve while maintaining a minimum of exposure to safety or downtime as a matter of course. Panelists will present how this issue is being addressed for their respective areas of the business, focusing on integrating the right people and the technology as we move to novel techniques that will be needed to extract the diminishing supplies. **JPT**

For more information about the conference and to register, please go to www.spe.org/events/dc/.



Tejas
Research & Engineering

SETTING A NEW STANDARD
IN DESIGN INNOVATION



Let Tejas tackle your next subsea, drilling or completion equipment design challenge

9185 Six Pines Drive • The Woodlands, TX 77380
T. 281 466 8700 • F. 281 466 8063 • sales@tejasre.com

www.tejasre.com/j12/08