

# Workshop examines surface BOP ops from floaters

**IADC ON 6 NOV** will convene a milestone event for the drilling industry—the 2002 IADC Surface BOP Workshop for Floating Drilling Operations.

Over the last six years, this new operating technique has demonstrated significant economies over traditional methods in benign deepwater environments.

Pioneered by **Unocal** in Southeast Asia, surface BOP drilling operations from moored floaters use a land or jackup-type BOP suspended above the waterline in the moonpool area.

The BOP is connected to a high pressure riser, typically a continuous length of 13 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>-in. casing from casing shoe to surface wellhead, that serves as the conduit to the ocean floor.

More recently, work is under way to develop similar surface BOP and high-pressure riser systems suitable for floating drilling operations in more moderate operating environments, such as the Gulf of Mexico, West Africa, Brazil and the Mediterranean.

The mission of the workshop, being held at the Omni Houston Hotel Westside, is to convene an industry event to educate on the state of the industry of surface BOP drilling from floaters and to provide an understanding of the risks and mitigation involved.

It is the objective of the workshop to form an IADC work group to develop guidelines for these operations.

The one-day workshop will address HSE, risk analysis, mooring, operations, riser analysis, well control, shut-off valves, and geological considerations, including mud engineering.

The workshop format is not fully determined, and will likely comprise a mix of formal presentations, discussion and breakouts.

Co-chairmen of the Planning Committee are **Graham Brander**, Shell, and **Earl Shanks**, Transocean.

Other members of the committee are **Jim Adam** and **Eric Magne**, Shell; **Jim Brekke** and **Ralph Linenberger**, GlobalSantaFe; **Gary Bush**, Unocal; **Mark Childers**, Atwood Oceanics; **Bill Hauser**, US Minerals Management Ser-

vice; **Barry Harding**, BP; and **Moe Plaisance**, Diamond Offshore.

Watch IADC's website and future editions of *Drilling Contractor* and "Drill Bits" for more information, or call Leesa Teel, 1/281 578 7171 ext 210 (leesa.teel@iadc.org). If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact Leesa Teel.

## TECHNICAL SESSIONS

Following registration beginning and a brief introduction to the workshop, the first session begins at 8:05 and will discuss the history and equipment configuration of surface BOP systems including



**Surface BOP technology has been used successfully by Unocal in Southeast Asia utilizing Transocean's Sedco 601 semisubmersible. The technology enables the rig to work in deeper waters.**

information about Unocal's system and experience in Southeast Asia and the case for surface BOP operations in deepwater, including the drivers and HS&E.

The second session will feature discussions on well design considerations including well depth and pore pressure considerations; seafloor isolation/shut-off/disconnect concepts and functions;

and riser considerations including size and type, wave loads, stress, fatigue mooring and station-keeping, and generic riser design guidelines.

Session three emphasizes drilling vessel considerations, including operating procedures and riser tension/stroke options.

Following a coffee break, session four outlines HS&E considerations of surface BOPs including safety cases and tools, well control issues, and operator and contractor planning and training.

Following lunch at noon, several breakout sessions will be held. These sessions include discussions on well construction, which will examine exploration versus development issues.

Also to be presented will be a session about riser diameter effects on wellhead and casing design.

Additionally, sessions includes a look at regulatory "gap" issues and a competency checklist.

Another breakout session will examine drilling vessel upgrades, discussing industry rigs as candidates for surface BOP; cost-effective rig selection; regulatory "gap" issue; and a competency checklist.

The last breakout session will look at HS&E issues, including safety and environmental concerns and regulatory "gap" issues.

A report of each breakout session will be made to all workshop participants, followed by questions from the floor.

After the various breakout reports are made, a panel discussion will be held and formation of an industry committee will be discussed, including recommendations for the way forward for the industry.

The IADC work group organization will center on three aspects: well, rig and HS&E.

Closing remarks will be presented by Mr Brander and Mr Shanks. ■