

Project execution, deepwater will highlight OTC

THE FUTURE OF DEEPWATER offshore exploration and production and the new global energy economy in the upstream oil and gas industry are two of the key topics of discussion at the General Sessions and Topical Luncheons planned for the 34th Offshore Technology Conference (OTC), 6 - 9 May, at Reliant Center.

The OTC 2002 General Sessions will offer expert perspectives and global examinations. The panel discussions will provide a platform for unfettered presentations and unrehearsed discussions about the current landscapes and the probable futures of these issues.

GENERAL SESSIONS

Offshore natural gas reserves promise significant potential to meet critical energy needs today and in the future. However, recovery of these resources represents a number of challenges.

The first general session 2-4 p.m. Tuesday, 7 May, will address *Offshore Gas Development: A Critical Factor in Global Energy Markets*.

The panel will examine the technological requirements necessary to develop offshore natural gas resources along with the commercial strategies needed, including policy considerations.

Michelle Michot Foss, Director, Energy Institute, **University of Houston**, will moderate the session. Panelists will include **James Ball**, Gas Strategies and Managing Partner, Managing Director, **EconoMatters Ltd.**; **Donald Condon Jr.**, President and General Manager, **Conoco Energy Ventures Inc.**; **John Darley**, Director, **Shell Technology E&P**; **Kathleen Eisbrenner**, Chief Commercial Officer, **El Paso Global LNG**.

Wednesday's General Session will examine the climate for offshore project execution, which is rapidly changing.

With downsizing and merging companies, increasing reliance on service and support organizations, fewer new graduates entering the industry, and growing complexity, the future success of offshore projects will require major changes in current project execution models.

This session, *What Is the Future Model for Offshore Project Execution?*, will address the changing landscape and discuss the issues related to major project execution in the oil and gas industry.

William R. Barger, E&P Area Manager, **Independent Project Analysis Inc.**, will moderate the panel of experts, which include **Gary Hagstrom**, General Manager Project Resources, **Chevron-Texaco Corp.**; **Mahdi Hasan**, Vice President-Development Execution, **Shell International E&P Inc.**; **Bill Higgs**, Co-Founder and Executive



Vice President, **Mustang Engineering Inc.**; and **Richard E. Westney**, Founder/CEO, **Westney Project Services**.

TOPICAL LUNCHEONS

Eight Topical Luncheons that bring specific issues or emerging world regions to a special setting for conference attendees are slated for Monday and Wednesday.

Monday's topical luncheons include *Subsea Project Execution - The Vision*, by **Hal Goldie**, Vice President Offshore Systems, **Cooper Cameron Corp.** This presentation will describe a vision and plan to meet the industry's subsea field development needs around the world. Goldie will discuss the technical advances, effective project management, new technical challenges and solutions, and project management innovations needed to work toward successful subsea field developments anywhere in the world.

Getting Ready for Deep Water with **Paul J. Pluta**, Rear Admiral, Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety and Environmental Protection, **United States Coast Guard**, will examine the philosophical foundation, the process and the status of deepwater petroleum reserves in the Gulf of Mexico, as a major development which looms large on the horizon.

Deepwater Drilling Systems: Evolution and Integration With Production Systems by **Norman Brammer**, Vice President, **ABB Vetco Gray**, will discuss drilling solutions and industry barriers in some depth with examples of breakthrough thinking, producing the potential of considerable improvement in the economics of drilling and completion activities in very deep water.

Supercavitation Technology by **Ivan Kirschner**, Senior Principal Scientist, **Anteon Corp.**, will provide an overview of recent research in the supercavitation of high speed bodies, including the results of selected experiments with supercavitating projectiles at supersonic speeds in water and several topics in computational methods and simulation.

Topical luncheons scheduled for Wednesday, 8 May, include *Management Actions Implemented After the P-36 Accident* by **Carlos Tadeu da Costa Fraga**, South-Southeast Executive Manager, **Petrobras E&P**. Fraga will discuss the *Operational Excellence Program for the Offshore Units* that was created after the conclusion of the P-36 accident investigations. This program includes several actions in areas, such as safety, engineering, operations, stability and ballast.

The World Economy: Sluggish or Vigorous Recovery, will be addressed by **Malcolm Gillis**, President, **Rice University**, who will attempt to access the recent record and prospects of U.S. and world economic performance, with some extensions to the outlook for oil and gas.

Global Deep Offshore Strategy with **Michel Benezit**, President, **TotalFinaElf Exploration & Production, Africa**, will introduce one of TotalFinaElf's most innovative projects, the Gulf of Mexico Canyon Express.

Achieving Best in Class: A Contractor's Challenge by **Tom Ehret**, President, Offshore Branch, **Technip-Coflexip**, will review and analyze the challenge of being best in class among offshore contractors by identifying those areas that can make the most difference in terms of successful and competitive project execution. His presentation will focus on human resources, technologies, assets and management principles.

INDUSTRY BREAKFASTS

Three specially designed Industry Breakfasts will be held Tuesday, 7 May through Thursday, 9 May from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

On Tuesday, *Business Opportunities in Nigeria's Oil and Gas Sector* focuses on the emergence and potential for deepwater field projects off the west coast of Nigeria, bringing to light related business opportunities for service and equipment companies hoping to establish a presence in the promising region. Presenters include Nigerian government representatives, major oil companies in the region, and procurement specialists.

The session was organized by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Petroleum Equipment Suppliers Association. Individual business meetings with procurement representatives and interested companies will follow.

Deepwater exploration and production and the new global energy economy in the upstream oil and gas industry are two of the key topics of discussion at the 2002 Offshore Technology Conference.

Wednesday's luncheon will focus on *Geopolitics of Oil and Gas and Its Influence on Prices Into the 21st Century*. This session will focus on political factors that influenced the supply and price of oil and gas in recent decades along with how the post 11 September 2001 events are changing the outlook for international oil and gas markets in surprising and dramatic ways.

The breakfast presentation will analyze how the changing politics in the Middle East, the United States, and Northeast Asia will affect oil and gas markets in the years to come.

Thursday, *Offshore Research Development and Delivery Initiative for U.S. Ultra-Deepwater Oil and Gas Production* will be examined from the perspectives of independent and major producers, service and technology providers, academia/research organizations, financial institutions, and government.

This breakfast will discuss methods of increasing the natural gas and petroleum R&D investment needed to spur U.S. production. Ultra-deepwater resources will be discussed as a potential solution to reverse the decline in U.S. annual production volume that has been occurring over the last few decades. A U.S. national program of collaborative R&D designed to drive energy supply research at a faster pace will be discussed together with the international implications for world energy supply. ■

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