



## CONTRACTOR NEWS

### Deepwater Nautilus Sets World Record



For the third time in just over three years, **Transocean's** semisubmersible Deepwater Nautilus team has set another world water-depth record for a moored offshore drilling rig while working for **Shell**.

The new record is 8,717 ft of water in Alaminos Canyon block 857 of the US Gulf of Mexico, set by the Deepwater Nautilus, Shell and **Delmar** anchor-handling company on September 25, 2003.

The two previous world records, both by the Deepwater Nautilus team in the US Gulf of Mexico, were 8,009 ft of water in March 2002 in Alaminos Canyon block 857 and 7,790 ft of water in June 2001 in Alaminos Canyon block 557.

When constructed in 2000, the Deepwater Nautilus was capable of working in water depths of 5,000 feet with self-contained mooring.

The rig has since used a preset mooring system to achieve the world records in greater than 8,000 ft of water.

The preset mooring system utilizes eight suction piles with polyester mooring lines, which are deployed by an anchor-handling vessel in advance of the rig's arrival to a location.

### Rowan awarded Eastern Canada contract

**Canadian Superior Energy** is contracting the Rowan Gorilla V for the operator's initial drilling of the operator's Mariner natural gas project offshore Nova Scotia. The contract began in early November. The operator used the rig last year to drill its initial Marquis exploration well. ■

### Rig crew reaches 500 days without an LTI

The crew of Polish drilling contractor **OGE Cracow's** rig working for **Cairn Energy** in the Thar Desert in Rajasthan, India, recently reached a milestone, operating for 500 days without experiencing a lost time incident. **Krzysztof A Fugiel** is the operations manager on the project. ■

These lines are connected to each of the rig's mooring wires to form a taut mooring system.

On the new world record, the Deepwater Nautilus moored the first four legs of the preset mooring system in 24 hours.

Crews were then able to start jetting in the 36-inch casing, and the rest of the mooring system was run offline.

Compared with traditional catenary mooring systems, the preset system provides a greatly reduced mooring pattern size while achieving higher holding power with far less rig-mooring time and excellent positioning around pipelines and seafloor obstructions. ■

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