

# Drilling conference focuses on tech application

**THE PREMIER CONFERENCE** on drilling technology, the 2004 IADC/SPE Drilling Conference, promises to continue its tradition of leaving participants with the knowledge to better understand the various technologies through the sharing of experiences. The conference is scheduled for 2-4 March at the Hyatt Regency Dallas at Reunion. Conference chairman is Moe Plaisance, Vice President-Operations Support for Diamond Offshore.

The conference theme is *Changing Our Image for Long-Term Growth*, and will feature 18 technical sessions with more than 100 papers to be presented over the three days.

Prior to the first plenary session Tuesday, 2004 IADC Chairman **Marion M Woolie** and 2004 SPE President **Kate H Baker** will each give a brief welcoming address to the attendees followed by the presentation of the 2004 SPE Drilling Engineering Award to **Stefan Z Miska**, who has served as Professor and Chairman of the Petroleum Engineering Department and the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma.

Abstracts of the technical papers appear on the following pages. Plenary session topics include *Changing our Image for Long-Term Growth: The Challenge*; *Roadblocks to Growth: Attracting New Talent and Environmental Disapproval*; and *The Reality: Case Histories for Progress*.

## INDUSTRY'S IMAGE

The negative perception of the drilling and production industry never fails to puzzle and even outrage those who have centered their professional lives in this industry. Despite an outstanding environmental record, the public remains skeptical of the E&P industry.

In the first of three related plenaries, distinguished speakers will address the facts and fictions of the global drilling industry. They will take a frank look at how the public views this industry, rightly or wrongly, and how it must go about bringing the truth to light.

One of the speakers is a senior industry professional, **Ray Wilcox**, President, **ChevronTexaco E&P**.

## ATTRACTING NEW TALENT

Industry image will have a long-term serious impact on drilling and production. Some studies indicate that top

technical and engineering talent are choosing career paths away from the industry. Meantime, drilling and production suffers from a poorly perceived environmental image.

The panel will examine both of these issues and discuss how other industries have responded to similar problems. The session will start with a presentation of the results of a recent industry-sponsored opinion poll of public perceptions. Then, a recent petroleum engineering graduate and a faculty head from an internationally recognized engineering university will discuss the pros and cons of making a career in the industry. Finally, an environmental specialist that has advised both the E&P industry and other sectors will discuss the truths and perceptions of the environmental actions with a leading industry spokesperson who will cite some industry best practices. A Q&A session will address all of these issues and their implications.

The panelists include **Mike Warner**, Head of the Department of Earth Science and Engineering at **Imperial College**; **Han Wychram**, Drilling Engineer for **Newfield Exploration**; **John R Heckman**, Director of **Five Winds International**; **Kit Armstrong**, Advisor, Global Policy and Strategy of Health, Environment & Safety for **ChevronTexaco Corp**; and **Red Cavaney**, President and CEO of the **American Petroleum Institute**.

## REALITY

Perception is one thing but the industry's continuing work in recruitment, community development and environmental protection tells a great story. In this final plenary session, the industry will tell its own stories. These case histories will reflect how our industry moves ahead on all fronts to better the lives of people and communities while efficiently developing resources for an energy-hungry world.

The panelists include **Juan A Garcia**, Drilling Manager, **ExxonMobil Development Company**; **James B Renfroe**, Senior Vice President, Fluids Division, **Halliburton Energy Services**; and **Lawrence R Dickerson**, President and COO, **Diamond Offshore Drilling**. ■



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