



PEOPLE & COMPANIES

Noble announces management changes. Noble Corporation announced that **William C (Kurt) Hoffman** was named Vice President-Marketing for Noble Drilling Services. Mr Hoffman has been with Noble since 1991, most recently as Vice President-Western Hemisphere Operations for Noble Drilling Services. Prior to that he served in various management roles in Triton Engineering Services Company. **Roger Lewis** was named Vice President-Worldwide Procurement and Asset Management. In this new position, Mr Lewis will be responsible for worldwide maintenance systems, materials management, inventory, logistics and purchasing. Mr Lewis joined Noble in 1980, working in the Mid-Continent and Texas land division until 1996 when he began working on special projects within the company. He joined the technology group in 2001 and was promoted to Vice President-Noble Engineering & Development in 2003.

KCA DEUTAG makes management appointments. **Ian MacKenzie**, previously KCA DEUTAG's (KCAD) Operations Manager for clients BP and Apache in the north Sea, has been promoted to the position of Area Manager International responsible for delivering the company's offshore division growth strategy in the Caspian Sea, Sakhalin Island and Angola as well as other geographic areas. **Larry Stamp** has been named to the new position of Country Manager, Sakhalin. **Ian Frizell**, previously Rig Manager on the BP Shah Deniz project in the Caspian Sea, has been named Operations Manager for KCAD in the Caspian. He will be responsible for the management of the current Chirag development contracts with BP and for contracts in the Central, West and East Azeri and Shah Deniz fields as they become operational. **Tamzin Steel** is heading an international HR team. She is responsible for provision of full HR support to KCAD's future offshore operations and associated projects.

BJ Tubular Services buys companies.

BJ Tubular Services expanded its casing, tubing and hammer services capabilities into the Gulf of Mexico with the acquisition of **Cajun Tubular Services** of Lafayette. The company provides tubular running, testing and torque monitoring services. BJ Tubular Services also acquired Lafayette-based **Petro-Drive** from **GrantPrideco**. Petro-Drive provides hydraulic and diesel hammer services.

Diamond Innovations acquires PDC assets. Diamond Innovations acquired **Phoenix Crystal's** PDC intellectual property and physical assets. Diamond will assume production of Phoenix Crystal's PDC drilling products. **Dr Robert H Frushour**, Phoenix Crystal's CEO, will act as a consultant to Diamond Innovations.

M-I SWACO formed. M-I and SWACO, two sister companies, have combined to form M-I SWACO. The company provides drilling, completion and reservoir drill-in fluids, solids control equipment and drilling waste management services.

PRODUCTS

Decanter Centrifuge. **Alfa Laval** introduced the LYNX 20, a decanter centrifuge for drilling mud treatment. It provides increased capacity and improved wear protection for the solids discharge section, drastically reducing mud treatment costs and making possible increased penetration rates. LYNX 20 is specially designed to work with virtually all kinds of drilling mud and is optimized for use with new water and synthetics-base mud types as well as with conventional oil-base drilling fluids. A number of optional modules make the LYNX 20 centrifuge ideal for use on drilling rigs, including both the fully automated modules and relatively simple manually operator modules that

Obituary

Frank L Thompson, 85, IADC Chairman in 1975, died January 13 at his home in Horseshoe Bay, Texas. He was born April 4, 1918 in Muskogee, Oklahoma. He joined his father in the A W Thompson Drilling Company in Midland, Texas. Mr Thompson was also a former Mayor of Midland.

Petroleum Safety Authority Norway opens in Stavanger. The Petroleum Safety Authority Norway (PSA), a division of the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate (NPD), officially opened in Stavanger 5 January. PSA is an independent governmental supervisory authority reporting to the Ministry of Labor and Government Administration. It has the supervisory responsibility for safety, emergency preparedness and working environment in petroleum activities that was taken over from the NPD effective 1 January 2004. **Magne Ognedal** is the Director of the PSA.



Magne Ognedal

BJ Process and Pipeline names manager. BJ Process and Pipeline Services appointed **Andrew Barden** to Division Technical Manager in Aberdeen responsible for all business development, engineering and training.

provide efficient solutions to virtually all solids control separation requirements.

New synthetic drilling fluid. M-I SWACO introduced its new generation RELIANT™ synthetic-base drilling fluid, whose flat rheological profile makes it ideally suited for deepwater, extended reach and other equally demanding operations. The new system provides rheological properties, especially yield point, low shear rate and gel strengths that are independent of temperatures. Unlike conventional synthetic-base drilling fluids, RELIANT exhibits a consistently flat rheology even in deepwater environments.