



IADC owes Mike Roth & his dad

IADC OWES A lot not only to longtime stalwart **Mike Roth**, but his father, as well. It was on his father's advice that Mr Roth, Director of Marketing for Contracts for **Transocean**, would devote 20 years of volunteer efforts with IADC.

Mr Roth said, "My dad told me a long time ago to get involved in the industry association. He told me, 'You'll meet a lot of people, you will learn a lot, you will be more satisfied with your work and be a lot more effective at what you do.'

"I took that advice to heart and joined the IADC."

Mr Roth began his industry career in 1976 and has been involved with IADC since the mid-1980s when he began a long-running leadership role in the IADC New Orleans Chapter. He became Chapter Chairman in 1987, a position to which he was repeatedly reelected. As mergers and downsizing diminished the size of the New Orleans drilling community, that Chapter merged with the Lafayette-based South Louisiana Chapter.

"The industry was changing, people were moving out of New Orleans to a variety of different places, and Lafayette seemed to be the hub of where IADC was doing some real good work in the Gulf Coast area," Mr Roth explained.

Subsequently, he began serving on the IADC Contracts Committee, then under the chairmanship of **Ray Perry** with **Global Marine Drilling Company**. Mr Roth participated in several committee initiatives, as well as moderating and speaking at IADC contracts conferences and other events. Mr Roth has also helped organize numerous IADC conference programs, including IADC Drilling Gulf of Mexico (30 Nov-1 Dec 2005 in Houston).

Following a move to Houston, Mr Roth was asked to serve as Vice Chairman of the Contracts Committee, under the stewardship of Chairman **Cary A Moomjian Jr**, then with **Santa Fe International**. Mr Roth became the Commit-

tee Chairman, a position he held from 2000 to the end of 2004.

Under his leadership, IADC standard contract forms were completely updated for US offshore and land drilling, which included day work, footage and turnkey.

"Revamping the contracts was one of the major goals we wanted to accomplish," Mr Roth explained. "We tapped into the resources of a variety of drilling contractors in Houston and internationally."



Mike Roth's involvement with IADC spans 20 years, and he's not finished yet.

It took nearly a year to juggle schedules sufficiently to arrange a meeting of all the contractor representatives to review the standard contract forms and rewrite them in a way consistent with current law and legal precedent. That task was completed in April 2003.

"The concept is to complete that exercise about every 5 years, because there are enough changes in law or court challenges to the contract form that requires some routine updating," he said.

He remains active on the Contracts Committee, and currently serves as Chairman of the IADC Houston Chapter. Mr Roth joined the Chapter Board in 2003 and served as Vice Chairman in 2004.

Mr Roth entered the drilling business primarily because of his father, who was an independent geologist in New

Orleans. As a teenager, Mr Roth would accompany his dad to drilling rigs as his father logged wells.

"While he was worried about those squiggly lines coming out of the back of the **Schlumberger** truck, I was walking around the rig with the driller or tool-pusher, asking, 'what's this' or 'what's that?'" Mr Roth recalled. "That was my early exposure to the oil field and to drilling rigs in particular and I liked it."

After graduating from Louisiana State University with a degree in Business Administration, he went to work right away in New Orleans for **Dixilyn Corporation** in their purchasing group. He worked for the company for about a year when he was transferred to Houston.

Following the merger of Dixilyn and **Field Drilling**, he joined other historical names in the contract drilling industry, including **Tropic Drilling**, which operated a drillship drilling turnkey development wells for **Petrobras** offshore Brazil. During his stint at Tropic Drilling he was introduced to the contract side of the business while he was still in purchasing.

Following Tropic Drilling, Mr Roth joined another company in the contract-drilling history books, **ODECO**, in his native New Orleans in 1981. There, he began to concentrate on contracts and their negotiation, notably for ODECO's Gulf of Mexico business.

In 1985, it was back to **Dixilyn-Field Drilling**. Two years later, **Sonat Offshore** bought Dixilyn-Field. He remained working contracts and marketing with Sonat in New Orleans until his 1992 transfer to Houston. There, his responsibilities expanded to contracts for operations in North America, and South America, Middle East, India and Africa.

Meanwhile, Sonat grew and evolved into the current Transocean Inc through a series of mergers and acquisitions. Mr Roth's work and responsibilities have grown, and he has shared his wisdom freely with the industry through IADC.

It's an industry that the Roths can't seem to get enough of.

"Not only was my dad a geologist, and I am in the business, but both of my sons are at the University of Texas in Austin studying Petroleum Engineering," Mr Roth remarked. "It seems that the oilfield will be stuck with more of the Roths before it is over. I guess the business is just in our blood, and we are doing our best to make our contribution."

It's a contribution that is doing the very best for the industry. ■