

Taylor Chooses McDermott To Install SIMBA Platform

NEW ORLEANS—Taylor Energy Company dedicated the deck of its Mississippi Canyon 21 platform known as SIMBA on June 29. Patrick F. Taylor, chairman, president, chief executive officer and sole owner of Taylor Energy Company, says the platform is the largest conventional fixed platform installed in the Gulf of Mexico in the past five years, as well as the largest man-made steel structure built for one individual.

Taylor has chosen J. Ray McDermott's marine division to install the platform in 700 feet of water using specialized marine construction equipment. Taylor explains that McDermott was to install each platform component separately, with the platform jacket structure coming first, followed by the piles and the decks.

The jacket, which supports the weight of the platform deck and drilling rig, was scheduled for installation in early July. It was to be launched from one of the world's largest barges and maneuvered into its final location by ballasting the legs and positioning it with one of the two largest derrick barges in the world.

According to the company, driving the piles requires a special underwater hammer hung from the derrick barge crane. Eight steel skirt piles are used to support the platform's weight and to pin it to the seabed. The seven-foot diameter piles are between 410 and 425 feet long and are driven 360-405 feet into the seabed, Taylor says.

Deck installation was scheduled for mid- to late-July. Taylor reports that the 1,150-ton deck has three levels: a top deck, a cellar deck, and a sub-cellar deck. The drill deck is 86 feet above the water. The oil and gas will flow through new pipelines connecting SIMBA to Taylor Energy Company's Mississippi Canyon 20 platform, 3.5 miles away.

Taylor Energy indicates it plans to use the platform to support drilling operations to produce oil and gas from the company's three newly discovered deep-water fields.

For information contact Taylor Energy Company, One Lee Circle, New Orleans, La. 70130; phone 504-581-5491. □

Coming In August

IOPA, Tri-State Coverage

Cooper Cameron Valves Offers ActraCam™ Actuator

HOUSTON—Cooper Cameron Valves has introduced its ActraCam™ actuators, a full line of high-pressure, natural gas-powered rotary actuators that the company says complements the long-term operation of the Cameron ball valve.

According to Cooper Cameron, the ActraCam actuator simplifies the selection and engineering process to save customers time, effort and cost, adding that the solution provides a single source of accountability for the automated valve package.

Cooper Cameron explains that a distinct feature of the ActraCam actuator is its ability to precisely match the actuator's torque output to valve requirements. It is directly mounted on the valve, which simplifies field installation, and elimi-

nates the need for customized mounting hardware, the company indicates. ActraCam uses the travel stops of the Cameron ball valve, which alleviates the need for actuator travel stops or related field adjustments.

"Our pipeline customers have always wanted a robust, durable and reliable valve, actuator and control assembly," explains Jason Broussard, senior marketing manager for Cooper Cameron Valves. "And by single-sourcing the entire assembly, we are reducing our customers' pain during valve selection and purchasing. At the same time, we are delivering a pre-certified solution, which has the potential to significantly reduce costs for pipeline operators over the lifetime of the system." □

Varel, ChevronTexaco Commemorate Record

DALLAS—Representatives from Varel International reunited in June with employees from ChevronTexaco to commemorate the successful run of Varel's 12¼ BB657XCB polycrystalline diamond compact PDC bit. The bit, run on ChevronTexaco's Alba North A-50 well in the North Sea, had a single run of 15,472 feet, with an average penetration rate of 94.5 feet an hour.

While meeting with ChevronTexaco at its upstream Europe office in Aberdeen, Scotland, Varel representatives Russell Hempsey, senior sales manager, and Mark Shepherd, UK sales manager, presented ChevronTexaco employees Neil McConaghy, drilling and completions team leader; and drilling engineers Abdel Ali and Barry Fraser with a figurine commemorating the project's success.

In March, ChevronTexaco approached Varel to supply the PDC bit, a design incorporating oval cutters and lateral jets, for their Alba North project. "We had previous knowledge and experience of this type of Varel bit," McConaghy explains. "It had successfully drilled similar extended-reach drilling wells. However, it had not been used previously on Alba. We chose this bit type for its excellent performance in drilling hard limestone stringers, of which there are many on Alba North."

Varel says the BB657XCB initiated

the sidetrack on March 25. The bit, which was down hole for two weeks, was run on Baker Hughes INTEQ's AutoTrak® Rotary closed-loop drilling system. After completing the build to 81 degrees, the well was drilled directionally for 11,000 feet. The well profile then was built to achieve the geological objectives in the reservoir sands. More than 30 hard limestone stringers were encountered.

On April 10, the bit was retrieved after it had drilled 15,472 feet in 163.7 drilling hours (270 circulating hours).

For information contact Varel International at 800-827-3526. □

