



Site Navigation

[OGI Homepage](#)

[Special Features](#)

[Technical Reports](#)

[World Industry News](#)

[World E&P Stats](#)

[Exploration & Discoveries](#)

[Drilling & Completion](#)

[Development & Production](#)

[Geosciences](#)

[Licensing & Concessions](#)

[Regional Spotlight](#)

[Hot Spots](#)

[Health Safety Environment](#)

[Industry Calendar](#)

[Company News](#)

[Books, CDs, Videos](#)

[Associations](#)

[Industry Links](#)

[New Products & Services](#)

Search Archives

Drilling & Completion

Varel PDC bit has record run drilling Alba North

(6/14/2004 - OGI: Houston) Varel International reported today that its unique design 12 1/2-inch polycrystalline diamond compact (PDC) bit BB657XCB has achieved a single run of 15,472 ft (4,716 meters) on the ChevronTexaco-operated Alba Field in the UK sector of the North Sea, Block 16/26. The bit had an average penetration rate of 94.5 ft/hr (28.80 meters/hr).

To celebrate the event, Varel commissioned a figurine to be presented to ChevronTexaco Upstream Europe in Aberdeen.

"We are very pleased with the bit's

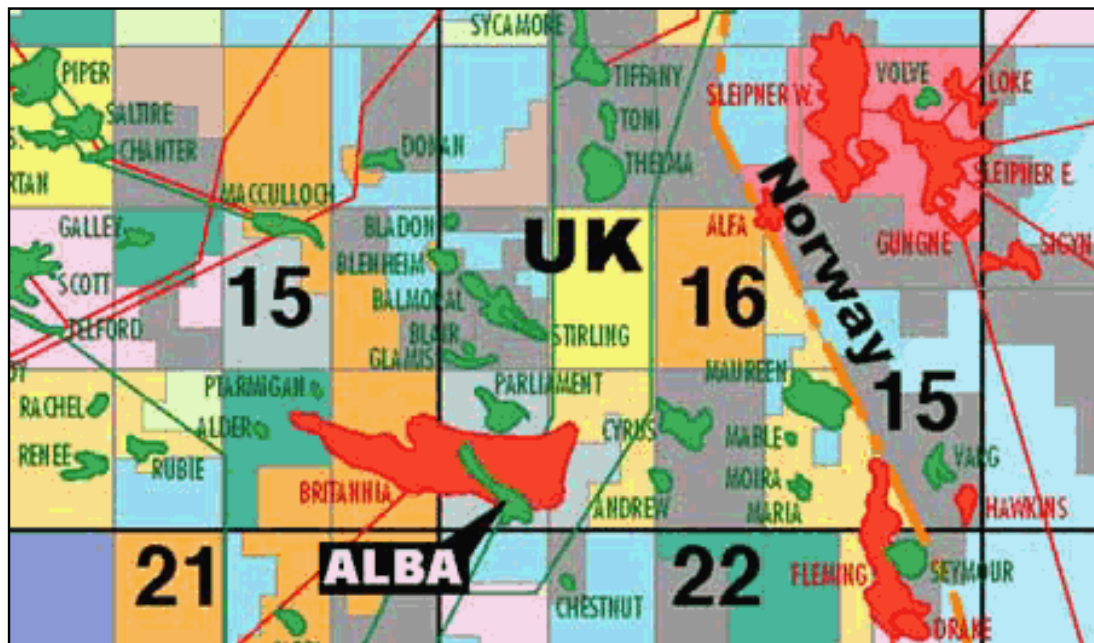
performance," said Varel senior sales engineer Russell Hempsey. "We wanted something memorable to mark this achievement and to thank the ChevronTexaco team."

ChevronTexaco sought the Varel bit with its unique design incorporating oval cutters and lateral jets, in March for employment on the Alba North Field.

"We had previous knowledge and experience of this type of Varel bit," said Neil McConaghy, drilling and completions team leader at ChevronTexaco. "It had successfully drilled similar extended-reach 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."



The Alba North platform.



The BB657XCB initiated the sidetrack on 25 March. The bit, which was downhole for approximately two weeks, was run on Baker Hughes INTEQ's AutoTrak Rotary Closed-Loop Drilling System. After completing the build to 81¼, the well was drilled tangentially for about 11,000 ft (3,353 meters).

Its profile was then built to achieve the geological objectives in the reservoir sands. More than 30 hard limestone stringers were encountered and efficiently drilled with the BB657XCB. Since the run, Baker Hughes INTEQ has confirmed this to be their longest single bit run ever achieved on AutoTrak.



(Left to right) Russell Hempsey, Mark Shepherd, Abdel Ali, Neil McConaghy, and Barry Fraser.

"This run appears to us to be the longest 12 1-inch PDC bit run in the North Sea and possibly a world record for the longest single bit run on a rotary steerable system," said Mark Shepherd, Varel's UK sales manager. "This is a significant milestone for Varel, and clearly demonstrates the capability of this series of drill bits."

The BB657XCB PDC bit is currently being re-furbished to "as new" condition at the Varel manufacturing facility in Pau, France for use on future Alba North wells.

ChevronTexaco is the operator of Block 16/26 and the Alba Field with 21.17% interest. Its partners are ConocoPhillips (23.43%), Statoil (17%), BP (15.50%), Total (12.65%), Energy Africa (8%), and Talisman (2.25%).

[Click here](#) for earlier report.

[Home](#) / [Contact Us](#)