



A message from **Rick Perry**, Governor of the State of Texas.

As Governor, I am pleased to extend greetings to all in attendance at the Offshore Technology Conference. I have every expectation that this conference will once again be an overwhelming success. As accomplished professionals, you will have an opportunity to network and to share the expertise necessary to meet and excel at emerging challenges and opportunities. This great nation has in large part been built through the innovation and enterprise of the men and women who have worked tirelessly to build the oil and gas industry. Its prominence has been a backbone of our economy, helping to create opportunity and prosperity.

Since 1969, the Offshore Technology Conference has promoted the development of offshore resources in the fields of drilling, exploration, production and environmental protection. Over the years, you have played an important role in furthering the industry's success, and I commend your commitment. To those of you from out of town, Houston is renowned for its heritage and legendary for its hospitality. I encourage you to explore and enjoy the many attractions that this fine city offers - there is something here for everyone. Anita joins me in sending best wishes for a successful conference.

Bicenter bits

Historically, bicenter drill bits have been used to pass through a smaller wellbore and drill an enlarged wellbore. Varel has enhanced the application of bicenter bits with its patent-pending drill-out technology feature, AFB (Advanced Force Balancing) cutting structure, and Casing Saver cutter technology. Features designed to ensure that no casing damage occurs during drill-out, extended pilot bit life and reliable directional characteristics (**Booth 1470**).

A bit of history in the making

A DRILL BIT VALUED AT \$40,000 IS AMONG THE NEW features on display in the Houston Museum of Natural Science's Wiess Energy Hall, which reopens this week following extensive renovation work. The permanent exhibit, showcasing the application of scientific

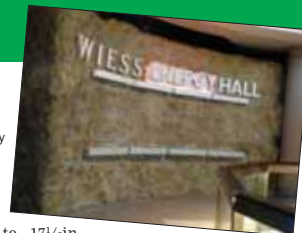
concepts and advanced technology in the oil and gas industry, is open to OTC attendees from today and to the public from Friday.

Donated by Varel International, the bit is a 6in x 7in x 4 7/8in MBC58, a unique, patent-pending one-piece matrix designed bicenter

which passes through a 6in diameter wellbore, drills a 7in diameter hole, and allows 4 7/8in tools immediately above the bit.

Jim Nixon (pictured), president and CEO of Varel, whose Houston and Tarbes, France facilities manufacture the MBC series bits in

Entrance to the newly renovated Wiess Energy Hall with (below) the donated bit from Varel.



sizes up to 17 1/2in reamer diameter, commented: 'The Wiess Energy Hall is an icon to the Houston community, dedicated to the preservation and education of the global oil and gas industry. The timely remodel allowed



to contribute some very progressive technology. As a company with more than 60 years in the drill bit business, we are excited to be a part of this prestigious display.

Paul Bernhard, who project managed the hall's recent makeover, added: 'We are delighted to accept this generous donation. The new bicenter drill bit from

Varel is a great example of some of the most advanced drill bit design today. It is a nice complement to our new computer animation featuring the latest drilling technology.'

Since it first opened in 1994, the Wiess Energy Hall has set the global standard for museum displays devoted to the energy sector. Features of the recent renovation include new, photo-realistic animation and 60in plasma screens controlled by 15in touch pads. Updated content includes extreme drilling in remote areas of the world; underbalanced drilling; expandable tubular casing; coiled tubing drilling; through-tubing rotary drilling; and extended-reach and designer wells.

'The entire exhibit is dynamic, from the visitor-controlled wall-size projections to the touch-screen control panels that allow visitors to access multiple levels of information about any energy topic imaginable,' said Joel Bartsch, president of the Houston Museum of Natural Science. 'Everything is bigger, brighter and more fun - even the labels are animated.'

For tickets, or more information, visit www.hmns.org or call +1 713 639 4629.



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