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ADVANCES IN DRILLING

Hybrid drilling technique improves offshore dual-conductor operations

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA

The MENA region remains an oasis of increasing oilfield activity, due to minimal lifting costs

SHALETECH: NIOBRARA/CODELL

Attractive sweet-spot margins help ease pain of low prices

OFFSHORE/SUBSEA

Norway's quest to push oil recovery rate higher, regardless of oil prices or technical challenges

COMPANIES IN THE NEWS

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On Aug. 27, Luxembourg Prime Minister Xavier Bettel (right) visited the APATEQ headquarters. He was greeted by APATEQ CEO Bogdan Serban (left). During his visit, Bettel was informed about the company's growth, as well as its disruptive technologies for water treatment. He was able to see the first industrial-scale

plant for the oil industry, which treats frac flowback and produced water, before it was to be shipped to the U.S. At the end of his visit, Bettel praised the positive development of the company, saying, "I am impressed by the development APATEQ made in the cleantech sector, [which] represents a key aspect of the diversification policy the government pursues." Image: APATEQ.

China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) has signed two production sharing contracts with **Roc Oil Company (ROC)** for Blocks 16/07 and 03/33 in the South China Sea. The two blocks are in the Pearl River Mouth basin. Block 16/07 covers 2,743 km² and has a water depth of approximately 100 m. Block 03/33 covers 2,367 km² and has a water depth of 65 m to 145 m. ROC will act as the operator during the exploration period and will be responsible for conducting activities in the two blocks. Under the contract, CNOOC has the right to participate in up to 51% of the working interest in any commercial discoveries on the blocks, once they have entered the development phase.

Northcote Energy Ltd. said that

National Oil Company (ADNOC), included data processing and reservoir characterization. The two-part survey covered a total area of 1,200 km² and lasted more than 18 months. The first part of the survey involved acquisition of more than 600 km² of data for the Hail project, offshore the Merawah natural reserve. It was immediately followed by the acquisition of more than 500 km² of data over an offshore and onshore area of Shuweihaat field. ADNOC's satisfaction with this survey played a significant part in its recent award of another contract to CGG. That contract, which is for a 1,500-km² survey over Ghasha-Butini field, is to be acquired with the support of Seabed Geosolutions.

Sandvik Materials Technology.

will provide its DWHC MS-700 SFX and MS-800 SFX wellhead systems, which are designed to be a holistic solution to address fatigue and improve operating life. The GE SFX (Standardized Fatigue Resistant Solution) wellhead systems will provide year-round operations in remote regions with harsh environments. The equipment will be built in GE facilities in Montrose, UK; Houston, Texas; Batam, Indonesia; and Jandira, Brazil.



DNV GL is building a new conference center and large-scale fire and explosion demonstration area at its hazard testing and research center in Cumbria, UK. The new facility is scheduled for completion in December. It is expected to enhance experiential learning for the oil and gas, chemical and security industries. The facility will be the largest of its kind in the UK. Its remote location within the RAF Spadeadam Ministry of Defence land, in the Cumbrian countryside, will allow confidential hazard tests, including flammable gas dispersion, fires, explosions, pipeline fracture tests, and blast and product testing, in a safe and secure environment. Image: DNV GL.

TGS has announced its Gigante

and **DownUnder GeoSolutions**, has begun acquiring a regional, multiclient, 2D seismic survey, titled North Celtic Sea 2015. The Ireland/UK cross-border project is largely in the Irish North Celtic Sea and St. Georges Channel. It aims to provide a high-quality, extensive, regional data set. The geophysically challenging area of the Celtic Sea and UK Western Approaches is underexplored at pre-Cretaceous levels, and is believed to show considerable promise. Acquisition commenced in early July, using the MAGE vessel *Nikolay Trubyatchinsky*—formerly the *Polar Explorer*. A total survey size of up to 6,000 km of long offset data is planned.



In partnership with **Nordic Geo Services Ltd.** of Singapore, **PT Bahari Lines** has secured two, 2D marine seismic data acquisition and processing service projects in Indonesian waters. The first contract of 1,600 line-km has been awarded by **Pusat Survei Geologi (PSG)** for West Papua, Indonesia. The second contract of 3,000 line-km has been awarded by **Total Indonesia** for West Sumatra, Mentawai. The vessel *Nordic Bahari*, with support from the new *Nordic Barakuda* and