



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DRILLING CONTRACTORS

AUSTRALASIAN CHAPTER

ARTICLE for DRILL BITS – IADC

IADC-Australia Chapter/NOPSEMA Performance Standards Workshop

Perth, Australia 21st October 2013

The application and interpretation of Performance Standards on MODUs operating within the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) waters has come under increased scrutiny over the past 12 months, with the regulator identifying deficiencies related to the standards in use during inspections.

As a result, NOPSEMA contacted IADC-Australasia Chapter to facilitate a joint workshop on the subject. The workshop was aimed at promoting the role of performance standards and means of achieving regulatory compliance.

IADC-AC membership welcomed the opportunity to participate and the workshop was well attended and supported by all MODU operators currently working in the regime, with active participation of appropriate operational personnel. The workshop was also attended by Alan Spackman, Vice President, Offshore Division, **IADC Houston**, who provided the attendees with an update on revisions to the IADC HSE Case Guidelines.

The workshop provided an opportunity for NOPSEMA to better describe how the content and structure of performance standards can be developed based on the 'goal setting' legislative framework, by considering a range of different input sources. For example: safety case formal safety assessment and safety management system; engineering standards and specifications; facility basis for design, statutory, class and flag requirements. Examples of different performance standard approaches and formats were demonstrated. The approaches and formats showed a common theme by specifying the measurable performance criteria that control measures are required to meet and providing a linkage to the maintenance management system assurance activities required to maintain the performance of the Control Measures.

On behalf of IADC-AC, two MODU operators presented their experience in developing performance standards:

- **Transocean** provided an overview of its operational integrity process from defining a major hazard' and determining major hazard barriers (safety critical elements/systems)' through to a future stage of assessing the integrity of the major hazard barriers.
- **Atwood Oceanics** provided an overview of how their performance standards interface with their maintenance management system, a system which has been in development since 2011. Atwood Oceanics' has since developed 23 performance standards with robust, demonstrable linkage from the safety case and control measures through to maintenance job plans and condition based monitoring.

IADC members and NOPSEMA representatives found the meeting to be worthwhile and productive, and look forward to further collaboration with the regulator.



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Photos from IADC-AC/NOPSEMA Performance Standards Workshop 21 October 2013 – Perth, Australia

