Macondo: beyond the ‘human error’ label

Ichthys LNG leads the Browse Basin rush

Bundled for the Beaufort

PLUS: WHAT ARE THE MOTIVATIONS BEHIND ASSET-LIGHT TGS’ PURCHASE OF STINGRAY GEOPHYSICAL?
FINE FILTER: Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering has awarded WVS Westgarth a contract to design, supply and deliver an ultrafiltration system and a sulphate removal package (SRP) for the FPSO destined for Total’s CLOV development offshore Angola. WVS anticipates completing the project in January 2012. The ultrafiltration and SRP will be installed on the FPSO to provide the necessary seawater treatment for subsea well injection. The ultrafiltration unit, which is the pre-treatment step to the SRP, will have a capacity of 391,280b/d of water and the sulphate removal package will treat 374,230b/d of water. The fine filtered seawater (nominal 0.01μm) from the ultrafiltration system provides the feed for the SRP. Ultrafiltration provides a significant weight/footprint reduction and improved water quality compared with multi-media seawater filtration technology. The SRP removes sulphates and other divalent ions from injection water to enhance oil recovery using Dow Filmtec membranes. The removal of these ions reduces the tendency of barium sulphate and strontium sulphate scale to form in the reservoir, and enhances oil recovery.

Louisiana Offshore Oil Port, or LOOP, to deliver a new supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system for LOOP’s entire pipeline system, including its offshore platforms, pumping and storage facilities, and refinery distribution pipelines. The project will be built on Alstom Grid’s e-torrabitrix software platform and will incorporate a suite of liquid pipeline SCADA applications from delivery partner EvolutionSCADA.

The project also includes delivery of a complete communications network to replace LOOP’s existing network infrastructure with a fault tolerant local and wide area network architecture, Alstom Grid said.

**Platform power**

Caterpillar has supplied CNOOC with eight 16 M 32 C crude oil engine generator sets to be installed on a pair of platforms bound for the South China Sea’s Panyu 4/2-5/1 field. Each generator set will provide 7680 kWe (9600 kVA) at 750 rpm of rated power. Each platform will include four generator sets and auxiliary equipment, including fuel supply modules, cooling modules, separator skids, lube oil skids and control panels.

The 16 M 32 C is a medium speed, long stroke engine featuring flexible camshaft technology, high efficiency turbochargers and a bore of 320mm. The modules are designed, built, plumbed, wired and factory tested in Rostock, Germany, simplifying the subsequent installation process at shipyards, Caterpillar said.

**Rope record**

Cortland recently produced the world’s largest 12-strand rope for a European client, constructed on the 12-strand braiding machine using Cortland’s Plasma synthetic fiber. The rope will be used to create an industrial lifting sling.

This rope was created from more than 52,000 individual Plasma strands using Cortland’s 12x12 braiding technique, which combines individual 12-braided ropes into a strong and flexible 12-strand rope. The finished size is 176mm with a minimum tensile strength of 1945t.

The rope is almost eight times lighter than a comparable steel rope would be, Cortland stated. The rope will be used in a grommet configuration with an MBL exceeding 3044t for heavy lift operations.

**Route survey**

UTEC Survey’s GAVIA AUV wrapped up the system acceptance test of a sub-bottom profiler module for the AUV. With the addition of the adapted Teledyne Benthos Chirp III system, UTEC says the enhanced GAVIA AUV now provides a comprehensive, pre-engineering survey capability particularly suited to subsea pipeline, umbilical and cable route surveys.

The GAVIA AUV’s design allows the end-user to attach an individual sensor package or a combination of packages, including multi-beam, side-scan or sub-bottom profiler. These sensors, combined with a state-of-the-art inertial navigation module, provide an accurate, efficient and stable work platform that delivers unmatched data quality, says UTEC.

“The ability to provide a full pre-engineering route survey capability from a modular, easily transportable AUV system demonstrates UTEC’s commitment to providing a truly global geophysical service, in shallow to medium water depths, deployable from any suitable cost-effective vessel of opportunity,” said UTEC’s director of sales and marketing Trevor Hughes.

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