BP launches its 2008 series of discoveries in Egypt

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LAST MONTH'S OIL PRICES

SAPESCO prepares its missiles to penetrate the land of fire!

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With some water drops, it will be lighter!

Two weeks ago, one of my colleagues went through a case of deceitfulness that only luck saved him from being fooled. As most of vehicle owners, he chose to get his car fuel from a reputable gas station to make sure he would get high quality of fuel. Heading to one of the most famous gas station in the Ring Road, he filled in his car with fuel; however, once he tried to switch one the engine and resume his way to work, it did not work out. The vehicle was more of a dead stone not responding to my friend's worthless trials. While searching for any mechanical assistance in the station to fix the problem, another car owner was facing the same problem of engine failure. Fortunately, he was a petroleum engineer working in one of the Egyptian natural gas companies; he examined a sample of the fuel used in this gas station and found out that it was mixed with water!

Oh my God! This can cost a whole new engine for any car. How would such a multinational petroleum firm deceive its customers? That was my friend's reaction.

The engineer called the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) to report this incident and the police to file a case against the gas station owner, who offered to cover all the expenses to repair the damages! Such an attitude contradicts the owner's story that he is only the gas station manager and owner and receives the fuel from a well-known multinational petroleum company. Thus, why would he pay the cost if it is not really his fault?

The question that should be raised is: who is responsible for fuel quality monitoring? I know that the gas stations are a partnership deal between a land owner and a petroleum firm. The first provides the space and management, while the latter is responsible for the installation of equipments and supply of fuel. Thus, who is responsible to check, follow up and evaluate the quality of products and services offered in this station? Maybe we investigate this subject in our coming issues.

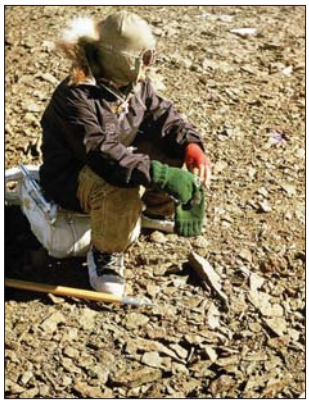
Finally, this might be a personal message to a very special colleague; Amr Hegazy, Senior Business Development Officer is to leave our team this month. Hegazy is one of our active colleagues, who has always been of a great value for our editorial team, with his precious suggestions, effort and help.

I have always believed that a lot of people step in and out of your life, but only true and good friends leave prints forever. Hegazy, we will really miss you, wish you all the best of luck in your life and new career.

Yomna Bassiouni
Managing Editor

News

Oil Search avoids more losses



Port Moresby-based Oil Search and its partners have announced their decision to plug and abandon the Salma-1 sidetrack in Egypt.

The company highlighted that it was unable to recover the lower part of the string from the well and that it was forced to cut the drill string after piping became stuck again.

The well partners had decided to abandon the well which has reached a depth of 2,957 meters rather than try to sidetrack the bore once more. The rig has now moved to drill the Shahd South East prospect.

Oil Search held a 49.5% operating stake in the Salma-1 well, while Sipertol International held the remaining 50.5%.

This was not the only decision made by the company as it is attempting to free stuck drill pipe in its North-West Paua-1 well in Papua New Guinea, which had reached a depth of 3,§011 meters.

Oil Search operates the well with a 52.5% stake with ExxonMobil holding the remaining 47.5% stake. This well is targeting the Toro and Digimu formations with a planned total depth of 3,400 meters. The well showed oil in the Toro sandstone and recovered oil in the Iagifu sandstone.

(Upstream Online)

Regal spuds third exploration well

Regal Petroleum announced that Apache East Ras Budran Corp. LDC, as operator of the East Ras Budran Concession in Egypt, has spudded the ERB-B-2X well; the third exploration well on the Concession.

This well is mainly targeting the Cambrian Naqus-Araba sandstone formation and is expected to be drilled to a total depth of approximately 4,800 feet.

Regal holds a 25% working interest in the Concession which covers an area of 521 square kilometers onshore in the Gulf of Suez.

(Rigzone)

Egypt Kuwait Holding invades the North Shadwan

Egypt Kuwait Holding announced that its affiliate Tri Ocean Energy Company along with its partner BP Egypt made a significant oil discovery on the North Shadwan Concession, located in the Gulf of Suez.

This discovery is expected to produce 10,000 barrels of oil per day on average, said the company in a statement. BP and Tri Ocean have an equal share of 50% each in this concession.

Egypt Kuwait Holding, the investment arm of the Kuwaiti Al Kharafi group in Egypt owns 76.86% of Tri Ocean Energy Company, while another Kharafi affiliate owns approximately 10% and the Commercial International Bank owns 14%.

(Reuters)

BP launches its 2008 series of discoveries in Egypt

BP Egypt announced two significant achievements in the Egyptian territories; it has made a significant gas discovery at record depths in the Nile Delta and successfully hit an important crude oil discovery in the North Shadwan concession in the southern part of the Gulf of Suez.

Starting with the new gas discovery, the Satis discovery is located on the North El Burg Offshore, Nile Delta concession, some 50 km north of Damietta. The well was drilled to a Nile Delta record depth of more than 6,500 meters and is the first significant high pressure, high temperature, offshore Oligocene discovery.

"This is a significant discovery. We are proud of this discovery because it uses cutting edge seismic and drilling technology. These results were made possible through BP's cooperation with the Ministry of Petroleum to provide new gas discoveries and incremental supply to meet future growth of the gas business in Egypt," said Hesham Mekawi, President and General Manager of BP Egypt.

It is worth mentioning that the parties of the North El Burg Offshore Concession agreement are: BP (operator 50%) and IEOC, the affiliate of ENI in Egypt (50%). Satis was drilled by the Constellation II jack-up rig, in a water depth of 90 meters.

Andy Inglis, BP's Chief Executive of Exploration & Production commented, "This is a significant discovery, which will underscore our position as a major producer in the growing Egyptian gas market for many years to come."

As for the second achievement, the North Shadwan oil discovery is the first oil discovery in the South-Eastern area of the Gulf of Suez in over ten years and is also the first discovery drilled by BP using recently acquired, modern, high-quality ocean bottom cable (OBC) seismic data.

This is BP's fourth Nubia success since 2001 with all previous discoveries (Saqqara, Edfu and Luli) either under development or already in production.

The NS394-1A exploration well was drilled in shallow water just 7 kilometers from the Hilal field. The well penetrated 68 meters of oil bearing sandstones in the highly productive Nubia formation, and oil samples recovered from the well indicate excellent quality light crude oil.

"This discovery represents a great milestone in BP Egypt and GUPCO's oil exploration strategy and is a result of our commitment to significant investment in Egypt's oil industry. This great success was made possible by our long-standing cooperation with the Ministry of Petroleum and EGPC," stated Mekawi.

TransGlobe wins the race for GHP Exploration

TransGlobe Energy Corporation revealed the closing of the acquisition of privately-held GHP Exploration which holds a 30% interest in the West Gharib Concession area in Egypt.

TransGlobe Petroleum International Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of TransGlobe Energy Corporation, acquired all the shares of GHP for $40.2 million, plus working capital adjustments, effective September 30, 2007.

GHP holds a 30% working interest in eight development leases and one pending development lease comprising the West Gharib Production Sharing Concession (PSC).

Based on this acquisition, TransGlobe is to boast an additional 900+ Bopd; 1.7 million barrels (MMBbls) proved reserves; 3.0 MMBbls proved plus probable reserves, highlighted the company in a statement.

TransGlobe funded the acquisition with an expanded credit facility and working capital. Interest charges and a working capital adjustment of approximately $6.2 million will bring the total cost of the acquisition to $46.4 million. The acquisition increased total debt to $98 million. The proceeds from the sale of TransGlobe's Canadian assets, expected to close in the second quarter of 2008, will be applied to the total debt and working capital.

The eight West Gharib development leases encompass 178 square kilometers (approximately 44,015 acres) and are valid for 20 years. Modern 3-D seismic covers the majority of the development leases. One additional development lease is currently awaiting final approval signature by the Egyptian Petroleum Minister.

Independent reserve auditors have assessed GHP's working interest share of the eight leases to contain 1.7 MMBbls proved reserves and 3.0 MMBbls of proved plus probable reserves.

(Transglobe Energy)

Dana Gas...more funds for more output

Abu Dhabi-listed Dana Gas revealed its plan to invest about $500 million in Egypt and Iraq's Kurdistan region this year to boost output of natural gas, adding that it is looking to enter Algeria.

Neeraj Agrawal, Dana Gas Finance Director told Reuters in an interview, "In 2008, we are investing about $200 million in Egypt projects, including upstream and downstream". He added that the Egyptian gas output would hold steady this year at a minimum 30,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day, compared with 28,400 boepd in the third quarter of last year.

"We should expect to maintain at least 30,000 boepd in 2008 and we should see the fruits in 2009," said Agrawal about Egyptian operations, which represent the company's main source of revenue.

The investments will be in exploration, production, and petroleum transport and processing, he added.

"We are looking at some opportunities for more acquisitions and green-field projects in Egypt and Algeria," highlighted Agrawal.

(Upstream Online)

GeoGlobal signs assignment and option agreements with GSPC

GeoGlobal Resources Inc. has assigned to Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (GSPC) all its rights to receive a 30% participating interest in two exploration blocks awarded by the Arab Republic of Egypt in exchange for an option exercisable on or before April 30, 2008 to reacquire all or a portion of those rights.

GeoGlobal's rights in the two exploration blocks arise out of a July 2006 joint study and bid agreement with GSPC and Alkor Petroo Limited to participate in the Egyptian government's bid solicitation process related to six exploration blocks. The bid partners subsequently bid and won the right to explore two of the blocks, GANOPE Block 8 onshore (also known as South Diyur) and E-GAS Block 6 offshore (also known as N. Hap'y).

GeoGlobal previously provided GSPC with non-refundable bank guarantees totaling $1.17 million, approximately 2% of GeoGlobal's share of the joint bidders' total financial commitments for conducting the first exploration phase on the two exploration blocks.

In the event GeoGlobal exercises the option, it will be required to pay to GSPC its pro rata share of all costs and expenses from the effective date of the option agreement (December 31, 2007). GeoGlobal will also have to provide to GSPC bank guarantees equal to the remaining 98%, based upon GeoGlobal's share of the rights it elects to reacquire, of the total financial commitment for conducting the first exploration phase on the two exploration blocks. If GeoGlobal elected to participate to the full 30%, these additional bank guarantees would amount to approximately $56.4 million. In addition to the non-refundable $1.17 million of bank guarantees, GeoGlobal's oil and gas assets included approximately $2.4 million relating to its interests in the two exploration blocks which will be carried forward as an investment in the option pending GeoGlobal's determination whether it will exercise any portion of the option.

"We believe that the assignment and option strategy is a prudent method of retaining the potential upside of these interesting and prospective exploration blocks," said Jean P. Roy, President & CEO, GeoGlobal Resources Inc. "We intend to continue to make a further internal evaluation of the blocks in an effort to arrive at a final decision regarding our further participation."

(Oil Voice)

Satis discovery helps prospects for Damietta train

Italy's Eni has suggested that the new Satis gas discovery in the offshore Nile Delta will help get the ball rolling on adding a second train at Egypt's Damietta liquefied natural gas facility.

The new train would add 5 million tons per annum to the first train's output, which is owned by Spanish Egyptian Gas Company (Segas), which is 80% controlled by Union Fenosa and Eni.

Egyptian state companies Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company (Egas) and Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) have a 10% stake each.

All sides signed a framework agreement for the second LNG train in 2006, with a completion target of 2011. The first train has been producing since 2004.

Segas has selected KBR and FosterWheeler to carry out competing studies for the expansion.

One of the two will later be selected to carry out the main engineering, procurement and construction contract. BP, which has made a string of significant Mediterranean Sea gas discovers in recent year, would join the group as a partner in the second train.

Egyptian Petroleum Minister, Eng. Sameh Fahmy said in December the proposal to assess the second train at Damietta was a few months away from final go-ahead, with the Egyptians waiting for completion of a reserves assessment by Eni.

The Egyptian government has to be convinced that the builders of the train have enough gas to supply both the facility and the domestic market.

(Upstream)

Circle Oil and Vegas combine forces in NW Gemsa

Circle Oil Egypt Ltd, a Circle Oil & Gas wholly owned subsidiary, has signed a farm-in agreement covering the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons with Vegas Oil and Gas SA for the NW Gemsa Block in Egypt.

Still subject to ratification by the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) and the Minister of Petroleum, this agreement will give Circle Oil Holding a 40% interest in the concession, while Vegas Oil and Gas remains operator with a 50% interest and Premier Oil plc 10%.

The NW Gemsa concession, lies 300 kilometers southeast of Cairo in a partially unexplored part of the Gulf of Suez Basin and covers an area of over 400 square kilometers including the Al Amir-1 well which discovered oil in April 2005. This well flowed 787 barrels of oil per day on test.

The concession agreement has recently entered its second phase of three and is valid for a further two and a half years. It has the right of conversion to a production license of 20 years, plus extensions, in the event of commercial discoveries.

Based on the terms of agreement, Circle will contribute towards the cost of the Amir SE-1 exploration well which will target the Nubia Sandstone at a depth of 12,870 feet. The Nubia Sandstone is a well known producer within the Gulf of Suez Basin and in the area of the proposed Amir SE-1 exploration well, it is approximately 1,200 feet thick. The drilling rig contract is due to be concluded shortly and the well was scheduled to commence drilling in early February 2008. The structure is a partial dip and fault closure and has an operator estimated potential of 100MMBO in situ based on the present outlined closure area.

(Rigzone)

Aminex to start drilling in the Gulf of Suez

Aminex PLC announces progress on its Egyptian exploration license, West esh el Mellaha Block 2 (WEEM).

A new 2,000 HP drilling rig (Rig ZJ-46) built in China was successfully delivered to the Gulf of Suez in mid-January. This rig is contracted for 18 months on a shared "call-out" basis for the WEEM group and other operators.

The first well location to be drilled on WEEM will be Malak-1 and containers have now been transported to the drill-site where rigging-up is already 20% complete. Barring unforeseen difficulties, drilling was scheduled to commence by mid-February.

The Malak-1 well, first of two back-to-back wells in the program, will be drilled to a total depth of 12,500 feet (3,800 meters) and is anticipated to take 30 days. Depending on results, the rig will be available for further drilling, and additional wells may be drilled immediately after completion of the first two wells or at a later date. A further announcement will be made when the Malak-1 has been spudded.

Aminex has a 10% beneficial interest in WEEM, carried through to first commercial production, and partners are First Energy Ltd., Groundstar Resources Ltd., FS International Corporation and Sinopex Ltd.

"Good progress has been made at WEEM which will become the third concurrent drilling campaign in which Aminex is at present directly involved," Aminex Executive Chairman Brian Hall commented. "On the Nyuni-East Songo Songo concession in Tanzania, the Kiliwani-1 well is now close to target. This will be followed by the spudding of the nearby Kiliwani North well to test a separate prospect. In Hidalgo County, Texas the recently-announced gas discovery well in the South Weslaco Field, GU#38, will be tested in the near future and this will be followed by drilling of a further well, GU#39. Additionally, plans are ongoing but not yet finalized for drilling a second well to test a new deep gas prospect in the Alta Loma area, Galveston County, Texas, close to existing Aminex gas production."

(Aminex PLC Press Release)

Renewable Energy

According to The Earth Policy Institute, production of photovoltaics (PV) jumped to 3,800 megawatts worldwide in 2007, up an estimated 50% over 2006. At the end of the year, cumulative global production stood at 12,400 megawatts, enough to power 2.4 million U.S. homes. Growing by an impressive average of 48% each year since 2002, PV production has been doubling every two years, making it the world's fastest-growing energy source.

DONG Energy plans regarding constructing a second-generation bioethanol demonstration plant at Kalundborg is supported by a DKK 22.5 million grant from the Government's Program for Energy research - EFP, which supports research and technological development in the energy area. DONG Energy has for the past ten years, been working on developing new bioethanol generation technologies based on straw and other types of biomass, and the technology is now ready to be researched in a large-scale environment. With the grant of EFP funds for the initial stage of the project DONG Energy will start the planning of the demonstration facility. The facility will generate annual volumes of 17,600 m3 of bioethanol, 24,000 tons of animal feed and 10,500 tons of solid bio fuel from 30,000 tons of straw and 30,000 tons of feed wheat. The intention is to sell the bioethanol to Statoil's refinery at Kalundborg as a petrol additive. The solid bio fuel will be transported to the Asnas power plant and used to generate power and heat for the bioethanol plant, making the bioethanol process energy self-sufficient. Enzymes for the plant will be supplied by Danisco Genencor.

Scottish and Southern Energy plc (SSE) has been granted planning permission to develop a 40-megawatts (MW) wind farm at Achany in Sutherland. The decision follows a Public Inquiry into the development, which was concluded in August 2007, the original planning application was made in October 2005. The wind farm will have 23 turbines and construction work is expected to begin next year, with the wind farm scheduled to be commissioned in 2010. Its development will require the investment of around £55m.

When Achany is commissioned, SSE will have 275MW of installed wind farm capacity. This includes the Drumderg and Toddleburn wind farms, which are expected to be commissioned in 2008 and 2009 respectively. It will be SSE's seventh wind farm.

In addition to Achany, SSE is currently seeking to secure consent for seven other wind farms, with a total capacity of over 650MW, which are at various stages in the formal planning process.

International

RWE joins the team of Nabucco Gas Pipeline Project

German utility RWE AG has saved its place as the sixth partner in the $7.4 billion Nabucco gas pipeline project, announced Nabucco Gas Pipeline International GmbH.

The 3,300km-pipeline project aims at transporting gas from the Middle East and Central Asia to Europe via Turkey which is the key gateway through which the pipeline will move.

The construction phase is scheduled to commence by the beginning of 2009, while the operation phase is planned to start by 2013.

In addition to RWE, the other five partners are Austria's OMV AG (OMV.VI), Hungary's MOL (MOL.BU), Romania's Transgaz, Bulgargaz of Bulgaria and Turkey's Botas.

The role of the German company is to provide financing and technical support for the Nabucco project.

According to the European Union (EU), this project is considered as a means to reduce the Europe's dependency on Russian oil.

(Dow Jones Newswires, Rigzone)

Soco farewells Yemeni fields

London-listed Soco International revealed its recent decision to sell its interests in the East Shabwa development area in Yemen to China's Sinochem Petroleum in a deal worth $465 million.

"Soco Yemen holds an indirect share of 16.785% in East Shabwa of Yemen through its 58.75% equity interest in Comeco Petroleum. Comeco has a 28.57% stake in East Shabwa in Block 10," said the company in a statement.

Soco's interests in Yemen hit a net proven reserves of 18.7 million barrels and net proven and probable reserves of 29.6 million barrels of oil in December 2006.

Same year, the production from East Shabwa was in the average of 40,400 barrels of oil per day and Soco's working interest share was 6766 barrels of oil per day. As for the company's revenue and profit, it was estimated $76 million before taxation of $55 million.

Sinochem's Vice President, Han Gensheng said that the transaction diversifies its exploration and production portfolio with immediate production, and increases its footprint in the Middle East, an area of focus for Sinochem.

(Upstream Online)

A new step for Shell in the Libyan LNG sector

Shell and Libya have set up a new joint operating agreement for their three-year-old liquefied natural gas (LNG) deal to rejuvenate and upgrade the Marsa El Brega facility in the Libyan territories and explore for gas reserves that might sustain a Greenfield plant.

Marsa El Brega originally had a nameplate capacity of 3.2 million tones per annum. The rejuvenation and upgrade of the facility would see output return to previous levels. Current output is only enough to meet a contract to supply 700,000 tpa to Spain.

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) said that the tenders for the rejuvenation phase to be decided by the middle of this year, while the drilling of the first exploration well is scheduled to start in the first quarter of the year.

Based on the terms of a joint operating agreement signed between Shell, Sirte Oil Company (SOC) and NOC, SOC will operate the LNG plant at Marsa El Brega during the upgrade and Shell is to cover the exploration, rejuvenation and upgrade costs.

"Seismic activity at the company's Sirte basin acreage is nearly complete. The first well is to be spudded in the first quarter of the year using a rig capable of reaching depths of 20,000 feet," said Linda Cook, Shell executive director for gas and power.

It is worth mentioning that the cost of upgrading is estimated at $350 million, while rejuvenation will cost $293 million.

(Upstream Online)

Petrogas to develop Oman oilfield cluster

Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) has awarded a contract to Petrogas Rima (Petrogas) to develop a cluster of 18 small oil fields in the Rima area of south Oman, said the company in a statement.

This 15-year service contract was awarded on the basis of a highly competitive open tender in which more than 200 companies from both Oman and abroad participated. Oman Oil Company (OOC) will also participate in the service contract as a partner with Petrogas. According to the terms of agreement, PDO has now the right to dedicate its resources to the development of its larger fields and execute its complex enhanced-oil recovery projects. The production levels of these fields, which contain more than 500 million barrels of oil and produce about 2,000 barrels of oil per day, is expected to witness a significant increase.

"The contract demonstrates that a 100 per cent Omani-owned Company has become a mature operator. I am sure PDO and Petrogas, together with the Oman Oil Company, will work in partnership to deliver excellent results," said Mohammad Al Barwani, Chairman of MB Holding Company, the parent company of Petrogas.

As part of the agreement, Petrogas Rima signed a joint operating agreement with OOC taking 25% participation interest in the service contract.

(Gulf News)

Kuwait raises oil-price multiplier budget to $50

"We (the Kuwaiti government) have raised the price of oil to $50 a barrel in the budget, for the fiscal year starting April 1st", said the Minister of Finance Mustafa al-Shammali.

Despite posting surpluses for the past eight straight years, the cabinet approved a draft budget, as usual, projected a shortfall, this time of 5.1 billion dinars ($18.8 billion), reported the AFP.

For the past two years, the price at which Kuwait estimates oil revenues for budget purposes was set to $36; $14 less than the new price.

The oil-rich Gulf state has traditionally used an ultra-conservative price to calculate its oil income, which accounts for about 95% of total revenues, and has used the 36-dollar-figure for the past two fiscal years.

Revenues for 2008/2009 were estimated at 12.68 billion dinars ($46.4 billion), 52.8 percent higher than the 8.3 billion dinars projected for the current year of 2008.

Oil revenues were estimated at 11.65 billion dinars ($42.7 billion) — the largest ever and 56 percent more than the 7.45 billion dinars projected for the current year.

Oil income was calculated on the basis of a daily production of 2.2 million barrels per day (bpd), the same as the current year.

(AFP)

Egypt's Pharaohs: African Champions for the sixth time

Egyptian National Football Team successfully defended the African Nations Cup then they beat four-time champions Cameroon 1-0 in Accra with a goal 13 minutes from time by Mohamed Aboutrika.

The Egyptians extended to six their record number of titles but not before overcoming a physically tough challenge from four-times champions Cameroon.

Aboutrika applied the finishing touch to a square pass from Mohamed Zidan, after the striker had robbed possession from Cameroon's veteran captain Rigobert Song on the edge of the penalty area in the 77th minute.

Hassan Shehata became only the second coach to win two back to back African titles after Ghana's Charles Kumi Gyamfi.

Egypt's Pharaohs created the majority of the chances but were thwarted by some fine stops from Cameroon goalkeeper Idriss Carlos Kameni.

He was central to the key incidents of the first half, botching a clearance in the 12th minute that landed at the feet of Egypt striker Amr Zaki, who missed a clear chance by striking the ball wide of goal.

Kameni redeemed himself with a brave save at point blank range from Emad Moteab, who had been sent clear on goal by a superb pass over the top of the defense in the 36th minute.

This was only the second time that Cameroon has been beaten in six final appearances -- both times by Egypt.

Best team won the cup, admits Tchato

"We have to congratulate Egypt, they deserve their victory," said Cameroon defender Bill Tchato, who was deputising for Andre Bikey, suspended after picking up a red card in the semi-final against Ghana. "In fairness, the best team won," he added.

The Indomitable Lions of Cameroon were dominated throughout and, in the 77th minute, a blunder by Captain Rigobert Song allowed Mohamed Zidan to square the ball to Mohamed Aboutrika, who fired home from close range.

Egypt, who beat Cameroon 4-2 in their opening group game, also thrashed hot favorites Ivory Coast 4-1 in the semi-finals.

Following their opening match defeat to Egypt, Cameroon beat Zambia and Sudan to finish second in their group before knocking out Tunisia 3-2 after extra time in the quarter-finals and hosts Ghana 1-0 in their semi-final

Abd Rabou: Player of the tournament

Egypt midfielder Hosni Abd Rabou was named player of the tournament at the Africa Cup of Nations in Ghana.

Abd Rabou, 23, scored four goals in the tournament, just one behind Cameroon's Samuel Eto'o, who finished as the Nations Cup top scorer.

Mohamed Aboutrika was named man of the match for the final after scoring the only goal in the win over Cameroon. Abd Rabou and Aboutrika were among five Egyptian players in the Confederation of African Football's Best XI.

Abd Rabou, who plays his club football for Egyptian side Ismaily, was named in the squad for the 2006 tournament but had to withdraw through injury.

Five Egyptians included in Africa's XI

Essam Al-Hadari, Wael Gomaa, Hosni Abd-Rabou, Mohamed Aboutreika and Amr Zaki have made the squad after putting in an impressive display in Africa's showpiece. The five players have been chosen by the Confederation of African Footbal (CAF) to be included in Africa's XI for the 2008 Nations Cup.

Two more Egyptians were named on the substitutes' bench. In-form right back Ahmed Fathi and sweeper Hani Saied have been included as back-ups.

Did Cameroon blame Song for final defeat?

Cameroon players have refused to blame age or captain Rigobert Song for their 1-0 defeat by Egypt in the African Nations Cup final.

Song, who was playing in his seventh Nations Cup, lost possession to Mohamed Zidan on the edge of his area and allowed the Hamburg striker to set up Mohamed Aboutrika for an easy finish in the 77th minute on Sunday.

"We played a good game but we conceded a goal at a very bad time," said Song, who had been gunning for a third continental triumph after lifting the trophy in 2000 and 2002.

Right back Geremi, who with Song and Samuel Eto'o was playing in his third Nations Cup final, denied that age was a factor.

"We're disappointed but in football, when someone makes a mistake, you can't blame them because it happens," he said.

Sources: Reuters, BBC Sport, Euro Sport

Africa Cup of Nations Records

Most titles won: 5
Egypt: 1957, 1959, 1986, 1998, 2006
Most appearances at the finals: Egypt (21)
1957, 1959, 1962, 1963, 1970, 1974, 1976, 1980, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006
Most appearances in a final: Ghana (7)
1963, 1965, 1968, 1970, 1978, 1982, 1992
Most matches played in the finals: Egypt (77)
Most wins in the finals: Egypt (40)
Most goals in the finals: Egypt (121)
Most Nations Cup matches played by a player:
Rigobert Song - Cameroon - 27 games played over 7 finals
Most appearances in the final: 4
Ali El Fanageeli - Egypt: 1957, 1959, 1962
Cecil Jones Attaquayefio - Ghana: 1965, 1968, 1970
Charles Addo Odametey - Ghana: 1963, 1965, 1968
Roger Milla - Cameroon: 1984, 1986, 1988
Most goals in the finals:
Laurent Pokou of the Ivory Coast scored 14 in two tournaments - 1968 & 1970
Most goals scored in a single tournament:
Mulumba Ndaye of Zaire scored 9 goals in 1974
Most goals scored by an individual in one match:
Laurent Pokou scored five goals as the Ivory Coast beat Ethiopia 6-1 in the 1970 edition
Fastest goal ever: Ayman Mansour, Egypt (23 seconds)
Most goals scored in one match: 9
Egypt 6-3 Nigeria, 1963
Most goals in a single tournament: 54
Egypt 1974, under the old eight-team system
Tournament with most goals scored:
Burkina Faso 1998 produced 93 goals in 32 games
Highest winning margin: 5
Ivory Coast 6-1 Ethiopia 1970
Youngest player ever: Chiva Star Nzighou (Gabon)
16 years, two months, 30 days at the 2000 finals
Most performances by a referee in the finals: 6
Tesfaye Gebreyesus (Ethiopia/Eritrea)
1970, 1974, 1978, 1980, 1984, 1986
Nations Cup winner as player and coach:
Mahmoud El-Gohary of Egypt in 1959 and 1998
Most Nations Cup wins by a coach: 3
Charles Gyamfi of Ghana won in 1963, 1965 & 1982

Year	Winner	Score	Runner-up	Host
1957	**Egypt**	4-0	Ethiopia	(Sudan)
1959	**Egypt**	2-1	Sudan	(Egypt)
1962	**Ethiopia**	4-2	Egypt	(Ethiopia)
1963	**Ghana**	3-0	Sudan	(Ghana)
1965	**Ghana**	3-2	Tunisia	(Tunisia)
1968	**Congo-Kinshasa**	1-0	Ghana	(Ethiopia)
1970	**Sudan**	1-0	Ghana	(Sudan)
1972	**Congo-Brazzaville**	3-2	Mali	(Cameroon)
1974	**Zaire**	2-0	Zambia	(Egypt)
1976	**Morocco**		**	(Ethiopia)
1978	**Ghana**	2-0	Uganda	(Ghana)
1980	**Nigeria**	3-0	Algeria	(Nigeria)
1982	**Ghana**	1-1 7-6 pens	Libya	(Libya)
1984	**Cameroon**	3-1	Nigeria	(Ivory Coast)
1986	**Egypt**	0-0 5-4 pens	Cameroon	(Egypt)
1988	**Cameroon**	1-0	Nigeria	(Morocco)
1990	**Algeria**	1-0	Nigeria	(Algeria)
1992	**Ivory Coast**	0-0 11-10 pens	Ghana	(Senegal)
1994	**Nigeria**	2-1	Zambia	(Tunisia)
1996	**South Africa**	2-0	Tunisia	(South Africa)
1998	**Egypt**	2-0	South Africa	(Burkina Faso)
2000	**Cameroon**	2-2 4-3 pens	Nigeria	(Ghana/Nigeria)
2002	**Cameroon**	0-0 3-2 pens	Senegal	(Mali)
2004	**Tunisia**	2-1	Morocco	(Tunisia)
2006	**Egypt**	0-0 4-2 pens	Ivory Coast	(Egypt)

In Review

GAS –TO LIQUID (GTL): IS IT AN ATTRACTIVE ROUTE FOR GAS MONETIZATION? Part III

By: Osama Abdul Rahman
General Manager of Orient Environmental Consultants
OEC

GAS-to-liquid process involves the conversion of natural gas into a clean source of energy mainly diesel and naphtha.

Currently, many giant oil and gas companies have or plan to have demonstration and commercial GTL plants. For examples, Sasol of South Africa installed and operated the first commercial GTL plant based on coal feedstock about half century ago. The South African company had already, jointly with Qatar Petroleum, constructed and commissioned a 34,000 BPD capacity GTL plant in Ras Laffan, in Qatar. Expansion of the plant capacity to 100,000 BPD is being evaluated by Qatar Petroleum and Sasol-Chevron. Shell has as well a 15,000 BPD commercial plant in Malaysia and is considering jointly with Qatar Petroleum a giant GTL integrated complex of 140,000 BPD capacity.

The list of companies also includes Exxon-Mobil which is running a 200 BPD demonstration unit in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and is considering jointly with Qatar Petroleum a commercial scale GTL project with a capacity exceeding 150,000 BPD. In addition, BP has a 300 BPD demonstration unit in Nikiski, Alaska. ConocoPhilips has constructed a 400 BPD demonstration unit in Ponca City, Oklahoma which was commissioned in mid 2003. Marathon Oil and Syntroleum are constructing a 100 BPD demonstration unit in Catoosa, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The question is why this flurry of gas-to-liquid projects? The answer is very simple: the market for GTL diesel is huge. As the sulfur and aromatics specification for Diesel oil becomes and will continue to be tighter to comply with exhaust mission requirements... Production of refinery diesel with ultra low sulfur content will be expensive to the point that makes production cost of GTL diesel oil which is practically contains zero sulfur and not more than 1% aromatics close to that of ultra law sulfur diesel recovered from crude oil.

At a period of low crude oil prices, production of synthetic fuel by GTL route was found to be uneconomic as compared to the price of fuel derived from crude oil and the application of the process was frozen.

The interest in the process was regenerated mainly due to the price increase of crude oil and the realization that crude oil supplies are finite. As mentioned earlier, the other driving force for the present interest in the GTL process is the increasingly stringent legislation which entails more efficient (deep) desulphurization of diesel derived from crude oil and accordingly the increase in cost of the production of this ultra low sulfur diesel.

Process Technology

The GTL process consists of three main steps:

- Production of Synthesis gas
- Conversion of the Synthesis gas to waxy hydrocarbon material
- Hydrocracking the waxy material to the desired products

First, the Synthesis Gas Production Step:

Methane is steam reformed to produce syngas, required for synfuel and other petrochemical products production according to the equation.

$$CH4 + H2O = CO + 3\ H2$$

It can be concluded from the above equation that Steam Reforming produces high Hydrogen: Carbon Monoxide ratio of about 3 which is not optimum for GTL production requiring a ratio of 2. However, the ratio from the steam reforming can be adjusted by removing the excess hydrogen by Membrane separation or Pressure Swing adsorption. The optimum H2:CO ratio for the GTL process can be achieved by "Partial Oxidation" of Natural Gas (Methane) in which natural gas is burned at high temperature according to the equation:

$$2CH4 + O2 = 2\ CO + 4\ H2$$

Partial Oxidation of Methane requires an oxygen plant, using cryogenic air separation, for the production of Oxygen from air.

A process technology had been developed in which air is used in place of pure oxygen thus eliminating the cost of oxygen plant.

The third process to produce syngas with the required Hydrogen: Carbon Monoxide ratio of 2 is the Auto Thermal Reforming process. This process can be considered as a mixture of the other two processes namely Steam Reforming and Partial Oxidation. CO2 can be added to the blend through a recycle stream.

Second, Synthetic Fuel Production Step (F-T Process):

In this step, the Carbon Monoxide and Hydrogen produced in the first step is either passed through a Fixed Bed Catalyst of Cobalt / Iron or the mixture is bubbled through a Hydrocarbon slurry containing a catalyst. The product of the reaction is a waxy product send to the upgrading step. Hydrogen is reacted with Carbon Monoxide to give a long chain waxy product according to the equation:

$$nCO + (2n+1)\ H2 = CnH2n + 2 + nH2O$$

OR

$$nCO + 2n\ H2 = n(-CH2-) + n\ H2O$$

In the above equation, the term - CH2 – represents basic building block of the paraffin molecule. Straight chain paraffins are main products of the F-T process with minor quantities of iso-paraffins and olefins also present in the products. Because of the paraffinic nature of the product, F-T diesel has high cetane number.

Third, The Hydro-cracking (Upgrading) Step:

In the upgrading step, the waxy paraffinic product is cracked in the presence of Hydrogen to any required molecular weight products.

The olefin molecules (CnH2n) become saturated with Hydrogen creation a range of paraffins. Thus, Naphtha is hydro treated and olefins are saturated to the corresponding parrafins.

In Focus

EXCLUSIVE

SAPESCO prepares its missiles to penetrate the land of fire!

By: Yomna Bassiouni

Neither five million land mines nor security threats will hinder Sahara Petroleum Services Company S.A.E (Sapesco) from exploiting the lands of the second largest oil reserves country, Iraq. Kurdistan is the next station in the series of Sapesco's ongoing expansions. Eng. Mamdouh Mahfouz, Sapesco's President, shares the new expansion plans and reveals exclusively to *Egypt Oil & Gas Newspaper* and for the first time, Sapesco's 2008 plan to establish the Sahara Petroleum Service Holding Company.

A flood of international expansions

First of all, we have to address the question, "Why do we expand abroad?" Sapesco's market share is in the average of 65-70% of the market, which is considered as the saturation limit. Hence, if we plan to grow more, then we have to look for the opportunities abroad, highlighted Mahfouz.

The most recent progress made this year is the plan to head to Kurdistan. "Iraq is the second largest country in terms of oil and gas reserves and that is why Sapesco has chosen Kurdistan as the next step in the series of expansions. Simply, it is the land of great potentials," said Mahfouz. As a beginning, market surveys have been conducted to study the feasibility of this plan. This region holds more than 20 international operating concessions and bid rounds have been announced to revive the exploration activity once again.

Asked about the security threats in such a country, Mahfouz confirmed that the ideas of war and safety instability are not the barriers as many investors believe. Kurdistan enjoys a status of independence and security to a great extent, added Mahfouz. "The main problem Sapesco will face in this region is the land mines. There are approximately five million mines in Kurdistan," clarified Mahfouz.

However, this will not be the blockade; Sapesco was first recognized for its mine clearance service which was provided in 1970 for oil companies operating in the Western Desert during that time. Although this service is no longer executed by the company as the Egyptian army forces took the responsibility, Sapesco still maintain; its connections with mine clearance experts who will deal with this problem in Kurdistan.

"Compared to our achievements in Libya, I believe that there are more potential in this province and Kurdistan will be a landmark for Sapesco," highlighted Mahfouz.

The execution of this ideology of expanding has first started in 1994. Sapesco inaugurated its branch in Syria and since then it has provided its high quality services, which lead the company to be classified as one of the top service companies in Syria. This experience has inspired the company team to consider more expansions in the Middle East region. The second Sapesco's expansion flag was set on the Libyan territories. Despite the status of embargo imposed on this society; where foreign companies and investors found difficulty in being authorized to conduct their operations in this country, Sapesco found out its way to reserve its place in this rich-petroleum country in 2005. Since the launch of its Tripoli branch, the volume of the company's activities has been tremendously increasing and the 2006-2007 revenues were beyond their expectations. Libya has recently experienced a kind of change in its laws and regulations concerning foreign investment, which has given the space for more foreign investments to penetrate in the Libyan market. This has created a spirit of competition between the foreign operating companies, which was the challenge for Sapesco. The price factor was not the tool to attract contractors. On the contrary, sometimes Sapesco lost deals due to their high price. As a matter of fact, quality and new technologies was the company's target. Sapesco has brought up-to-date technologies to Libya and Egypt and it was the first company, outside USA, to implement the first deep water drilling project in Libya. Nowadays, Sapesco is providing in Libya almost all the services implemented in Egypt.

> "Sapesco's market share is in the average of 65-70% of the market, which is considered as the saturation limit"

In 2006, SAPESCO was officially registered as a 100% Egyptian company operating in Saudi Arabia.

Operating in the Egyptian petroleum sector for more than 20 years, Mahfouz believes that skill shortage is the major constraint challenging the sector. This is not a domestic problem; skill shortage has become a common lacking factor worldwide. "The only mean to generate skilled labour cadre is to pay more attention to petroleum engineering graduates, intensify the number of training courses offered, and at the same time, provide attractive work packages similar to the ones offered by other companies abroad to avoid/eliminate the problem of skilled personnel drain."

Sahara Petroleum Service Holding Company

"This is one of our dreams; this holding company is to increase our market share and serve Sapesco's target

to become the leading service company, not only in Egypt, but also in the Middle East and North African regions," Mahfouz shed light on the vitality of this mega holding company.

Furthermore, Mahfouz added that through Sahara Petroleum Service Holding Company, the companies operating under the Sahara Group, which are Sahara Oil & Gas, DREXEL, Valve & Tools, WEMCO, and MOVA will witness a wave of more cooperation, strength, mergers, which will lead to fulfill the vision of maintaining their stand in the market as the leading private petroleum service company in Egypt, Libya and Syria, as well as opening new markets in the region.

SAPESCO's 2008 plans

Besides expansion and penetration of new markets, Sapesco has its financial and revenue objectives determined annually. Last year, the company achieved 105% of the budget figure for 2007, and this year, the profit is expected to witness more increase of approximately 35%. "We will continue our effort to present services to clients at the highest international standards in a safe and environmentally conscious manner. We will keep on investing in our main assets, People & Equipment, as we consider them the motivation behind any achievement," added Mahfouz.

Not ignoring the significance of the company's social responsibility, Sapesco is contributing this year to an awareness campaign on driving safety rules and road accidents in Egypt. The rate of deaths and injures resulting from vehicle accidents has been noticeably increasing in Egypt over the past few years. Sapesco has adopted a new training program for the company's drivers, which is serving the theme of this campaign.

"I have always believed that being part of this society, we have duties to pay back. We should have a positive and effective role to ameliorate the society we are living in," said Mahfouz. Sapesco has been active in many social responsibility projects; such as renovating public schools, providing medical equipments and ambulances to hospitals, etc... It is worth mentioning that Sapesco is one of few petroleum companies that owns a charity organization, Sahara Charity Organization, through which it fulfils its mission of better serving the community.

> **"The holding will increase our market share and serve Sapesco's target to become the leading service company, not only in Egypt, but also in the Middle East and North Africa regions"**

Rashid and Burullus sail in the Mediterranean

By: Ashraf Said

The Rashid Petroleum (Rashpetco) and Burullus Gas Co. completed the fourth phase of the renovation and development held in the deep water area, worth $350 million.

A total of 28 producing wells were included in this phase, through which equipments, control devices and a distribution platform were installed in deep waters. Saipem, a subsidiary of Italian ENI S.p.A carried out the installation work in deep water for Rashid and Burullus, with equipments manufactured in the workshops of Petrobel and Petrojet.

The renovation tasks are to add 30 million cubic feet of gas per day; 14% more than the current production which accounts for 380 million cubic feet per day compared to 275 million cubic feet per day in January 2001. The technical tests for the fourth phase are scheduled to be completed by the end of this month.

Rashid and Burullus pointed out that the development operations conducted in their fields are of great importance as these fields are classified as the largest producers of natural gas. Their average daily production accounts for more than 4.2 billion cubic feet of gas which is 45% of the total domestic production.

The expected gas increase is to be distributed equally for exportation and the fulfillment of the increasing domestic gas demand. It is worth mentioning that Rashpetco and Burullus Gas Co. are owned by the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) along with the Egyptian Holding Natural Gas Company (Egas), British Gas, Italian Edisson and Malaysian Petronas.

Rashpetco and Brullus have previously succeeded in increasing the production volume of Scarab/Mesafroun field, the first field to be developed in the deep water in Egypt and the Middle East, to reach 900 million cubic feet of gas. The two companies have also developed the fields of Saipem and Safir and hit 1,400 million cubic feet of gas per day that are exported to France, Italy and the U.S.A.

At present, Rashpetco and Burullus are evaluating the volume of reserves of their most recent petroleum discoveries in the area of West Delta in the deep water of the Mediterranean Sea; 120 km from shore, 75 meters in depth. This is the first time to discover crude petroleum with such large width in this area.

Tart Field is back with 12 million cubic feet of gas

By: Ashraf Said

The Gulf of Suez Petroleum Co. (GUPCO) has received L.E. 12 million worth production facilities from Petrobel, which serve GUPCO's plan to increase its natural gas production from Tart Field by an average of 12 million cubic feet of gas per day. Currently, GUPCO's daily production accounts for 143 million cubic feet per day.

According to an official in Petrobel, the production volume of Tart Field is expected to attain 155 million cubic feet of gas by this month. He added that the equipments will contribute to the exploration activities held by GUPCO in the deep water area in the Gulf of Suez.

Geologist Refaat Khafagi, Chairman of GUPCO declared that the development process aims at increasing the production of Hapi and Akhen fields to more than 500 million cubic feet of gas and more than 4,000 barrels of condensate per day before the end of this year.

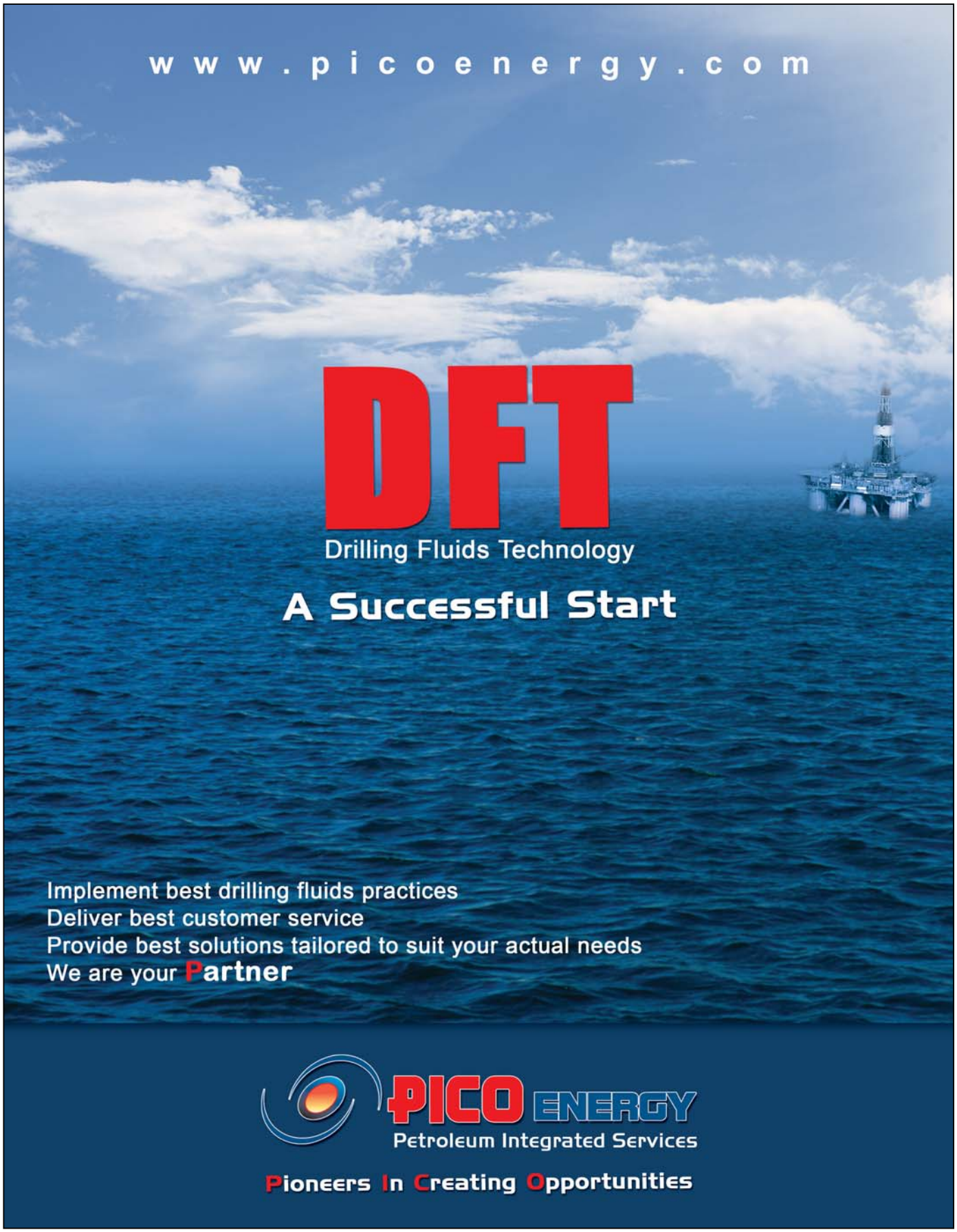
Khafagi added that the project of gas compressors for the Hapi field was completed last year, and has contributed to the increase of the daily gas production to 420 million cubic feet.

Currently, GUPCO is focusing on renovating the infrastructure of the major production platforms in the Gulf of Suez through the implementation of several projects, among which is the renovation project in the Badry Field to secure its 20 million oil barrels reserves.

GUPCO has redeveloped some oilfields in the Gulf of Suez. One of which is GS. 327 with a ten-time production increase to reach 9,000 barrel of oil per day, in addition to five other new wells, expecting production to reach 12,000 barrels by the end of 2008. Also, it succeeded to increase the production volume of EDFU KS 324 field, which reached 18,000 barrels per day.

GUPCO is expected to increase its production to 25,000 barrels per day by the end of 2008 within the framework of an investment program (with a $484 million budget) to develop and modernize the infrastructure of production facilities.

GUPCO is a joint venture between the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) and British Petroleum (BP); its main activity is focused in the Gulf of Suez area, and has an average total production of crude oil and condensates that reached 105,000 barrels per day.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Political Review

The tragedy at the borders...

By: Mohamed El-Sayed

A human tragedy unfolded in the past weeks in the Palestinian Gaza Strip after Israel decided to cut fuel and electricity it used to provide for the densely populated area. These cuts, which are intended to pressure Palestinian armed groups to end their rocket attacks launched from Gaza against settlements in southern Israel, had a grave impact on Gaza's hospitals, water-pumping stations, sewage-treatment facilities, and other infrastructure essential for the well-being of Gaza's population.

And as Gaza sank into complete darkness by the last week of January, thousands of Palestinians crossed the Rafah border on foot into Egypt after Palestinian militants exploded the wall between the Strip and Egypt, in Rafah. Having been trapped in what is considered the "world's largest concentration camp" by a tight Israeli blockade, Palestinians poured into Egypt to buy food, fuel and other supplies that have become scarce in Gaza. And in spite of the US and Israeli protests at the crossing of Palestinians into Egyptian territories, the Egyptian border guards and Hamas police could not but look on as Palestinians hurried over the border and returned with bags of food and plastic bottles of fuel. Egypt later resealed the borders with Gaza and deported Palestinians who poured into Northern Sinai.

And despite that Israel later resumed electricity supply to Gaza, it started to reduce the electricity it sells directly to the Strip by 1.5 megawatts over the three weeks after Palestinian rockets hit an Israeli settlement, injuring a number of children. This, in fact, adds to a series of Israeli measures since 2006 that have caused a 20 percent shortfall in Gaza's electricity needs.

Adding insult to injury, the Israeli government's move was supported by the Israeli Supreme Court approval of the fuel and electricity cuts, rejecting a petition by 10 Israeli and Palestinian human rights groups to end the Gaza tragedy.

The tragedy prompted international human rights organizations to slam the energy cuts from Gaza Strip. The New York-based Human Rights Watch was the first to condemn the Israeli actions by saying that Israel's cuts of fuel and electricity to Gaza "amounted to collective punishment of the civilian population, and violate Israel's obligations under the laws of war." Joe Stork, Middle East Director at Human Rights Watch, said that "the cuts are seriously affecting civilians who have nothing to do with these armed groups, and that violates a fundamental principle of the laws of war."

Israel, in fact, sells to Gaza 120 megawatts of electricity per day, delivered by 10 feeder lines across the border. Gaza's only power plant currently produces 55 megawatts, despite the fact that its full capacity is 100 megawatts. This was due to a 2006 Israeli air strike and subsequent fuel restrictions that have prevented the plant from operating at full capacity. An additional 17 megawatts come from Egypt.

Meanwhile, Egyptian opposition forces are calling upon the government to "provide Gaza with fuels instead of selling natural gas to Israel". Several demonstrations were staged in most of Egyptian governorates following the Israeli siege. And although the Egyptian border guards resealed the borders with Gaza, and given the continued Israeli siege on Gaza, many political commentators expect a new breaking of the Egyptian borders by the Palestinians, a matter the Egyptian authorities stressed they would not allow to happen.

Chavez threatens to stop oil exports to US

It's as if the US economy was needing yet another setback after the "credit crunch" and soaring oil prices that bordered on the $100 a barrel. Last month, the Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez launched into an angry tirade about stopping oil exports to the US if petroleum giant Exxon Mobil succeeds in freezing billions of dollars in foreign petroleum assets controlled by Venezuela.

In fact, the warning sparked a fierce legal dispute between Venezuela and Exxon Mobil after Chávez's attempts to impose bigger state control over his country's oil industry last year. And instead of submitting to Venezuela's terms, Exxon Mobil withdrew from a major production venture, which further intensified the dispute.

"The bandits of Exxon Mobil will never rob us again," the enthusiastic Chávez said on his weekly television program. He accused the company and the American administration of conspiring to destabilize Venezuela. "I speak to the American empire, because that's the master," Chávez said. "Continue, and you will see that we won't send one drop of oil to the empire of the United States," he added. Referring to Exxon Mobil, the controversial president, whom the United States tried to topple before, noted that "they are imperialist bandits, white-collar criminals, corrupters of governments, over-throwers of governments."

To the chagrin of Venezuela's government, the giant oil company has recently won orders in British, Dutch and American courts to freeze $12 billion in Venezuelan oil assets abroad - refineries and other oil-related infrastructure that Venezuela owns. The Venezuelan government vowed to overturn the decisions before arbitration over Exxon's attempts to win compensation for its nationalised oil project. Nevertheless, Exxon Mobil refused to comment following Chávez's fiery comments.

As a matter of fact, this was not the first time Chávez threatened to stop oil exports to the US. He has repeatedly threatened to cut off oil supplies to the biggest importing country, but has never done so. And in spite of what seems to be a deterioration in political relations, the United States remains Venezuela's top trading partner. In fact, it is the fourth largest supplier of crude oil to the United States, exporting 1.2 million barrels daily to American refineries.

The significant decline in oil production at the national oil company Petróleos de Venezuela has allowed other oil exporting countries like Saudi Arabia to gain a greater share of the market to meet the ever expanding global demand for oil, especially from China and India. The problems at Petróleos de Venezuela, a major hard currency earner for Venezuela, are occurring amid growing discontent over food shortages and inflation.

Will Russia lead the Natural Gas Cartel?

IT seems that Russia is determined to come back as a key player in the international arena. To achieve this goal, the Russian government has been trying to expand its influence on Europe by tightening its grip on energy sources of the old continent. Indeed the Russian government succeeded at last to sign a landmark agreement with Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan two months ago, by virtue of which the main pipeline connecting natural gas from those two countries to Europe will pass through the Russian territories. The agreement was then widely viewed as an astounding victory for Moscow over Western European capitals and the US, which tried to make the vital pipeline pass beneath the Caspian Sea then to Turkey, far removed from the Russian territories.

The Russian government, along with Iran, also floated the idea of setting up a natural gas cartel modeled on the OPEC. In fact, there were media reports and speculations that the world's largest producers of natural gas, i.e. Russia and Iran, are toying with the idea of creating a gas cartel which sets quotas and prices. The issue was expected to gain momentum during the 7th Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) meeting in Doha last year. However, contrary to expectations, the main leaders in the natural gas market stressed that there was still a long way to go before establishing such an organization. Yet, they appointed a committee of experts to evaluate the idea.

Nevertheless, the idea was floated again last month when Iran, which has the world's second-largest gas reserves, announced that it supported the swift formation of an OPEC-style organization for natural gas. "We believe that the world's main gas producers should create such an organization as soon as possible," Iranian Ambassador to Russia Gholam-Reza Ansari told reporters. He noted that major gas producers would discuss the idea in June at the GECF annual meeting in Moscow. "Such organization could be useful for both gas producers and gas consumers," the ambassador added.

The United States and the European Union are wary of possible creation of the organization which would lead to the growing political and economic influence of Russia and Iran. Indeed, Nato advisers have warned the military alliance that it needs to guard against any attempt by Russia to set up an OPEC for gas that would strengthen Moscow's leverage over Europe. A confidential study by Nato economics experts warned that Russia may be seeking to build a gas cartel including Algeria, Qatar, Libya, the countries of Central Asia and Iran.

The Nato's concerns stem from the fact that Russia supplies 24 per cent of Europe's natural gas, with Norway selling 13 per cent and Algeria, a major exporter to Spain and Italy, supplying 10 per cent. These concerns were boosted by the International Energy Agency's warning about "the possibility of major gas-exporting countries co-ordinating their investment and production plans in order to avoid surplus capacity and to keep gas prices up."

Although big gas exporters such as Norway, Qatar and Nigeria seem reluctant to join any cartel, and despite some experts argue that it's difficult to set a certain price for natural gas – as it is traded very differently to oil, with long-term contracts, often linked to oil prices – the idea of creating the natural gas cartel still has tremendous possibilities.

Technology & Solution

Simple, Reliable and Cost-effective Annular Isolation Using Swellable Elastomer Packer Technology

By Henry Longden, Halliburton

Reliability, simplicity and operating time are key considerations in designing any drilling and completion program in the oil and gas industry. This is especially true in offshore operations because of the considerably higher daily rig rates and operating costs. But it is also true on land and at remote locations where improved efficiencies are also desired.

Acquiring pressure and flow isolation points in a well, either along the casing and/or completion strings, is a continuing requirement. Increasingly, well environments have become more complex due to operating environments with deeper, hotter, and higher pressures that require more complicated completion designs. However, the requirement for effective, long-term isolation points has remained the same.

With the added challenges that must be addressed in today's wells, traditional methods of achieving the required isolation have become more problematic, and often have further increased the complexity of the wells. Simultaneously, oilfield trends exhibit an increased need for simplified operations that enhance reliability rather than make it more complex.

Recently, an innovative technology that utilizes swellable rubber packers to simplify the achievement of isolation requirements was introduced to the oil and gas industry. The technology is based on the swelling properties of rubber elastomers in the presence of either liquid hydrocarbons, or water which causes the elastomer to swell and effectively seal the annulus around the pipe. Since 2001, these packers have proven to be a robust, reliable, and cost-effective solution for achieving long-term isolation in a simple, safe and extremely reliable manner.

Since their introduction, swellable packers have undergone a great deal of additional development involving the basic swellable elastomer technology, both hydrocarbon and water swelling, as well as the temperature and pressure ranges in which they can be employed.

In swellable packers, either oil- or water-swelling elastomers are bonded onto a basepipe, alternatively 'slip on' tools can be utilized, held in place with stop collars. The size, metallurgy and thread of the packer are the same as that of the rest of the casing or completion string (any size) being used. These packers are run as part of the completion or casing string and are spaced on the string according to the depth at which the isolation point is required. When the packers come in contact with a hydrocarbon or water, they swell (to a maximum of 200% by volume) and seal off the annulus. Depending on the dimensions of the packer, and the percentage of swell, differential pressures of up to 10,000 psi can be achieved by these too

There are a number of benefits associated with this technology. First, the setting of the packers requires no pumping, rotation, running/setting tools, pressure, dropping balls, additional trips etc. This simplifies the overall operation because there is almost never a need for a dedicated operator to be present during the running of the packers.

Second, since the packers are mounted onto basepipe having the same characteristics and specifications as the rest of the string, there is neither an ID reduction nor potential weak spot or leak path through the tubing, which is often the case with traditional inflatable isolation tools. As the rubber swells, it is able to mold itself and seal the annulus in open or cased hole environments.

Finally, in the event that temperature or pressure changes should occur and a leak path form during the life of the well, the packer would simply be activated to swell into the flow path and seal off the leak as long as the fluid in the path is a type that originally caused the packer to swell (hydrocarbon or water). Contrastingly, if traditional methods have been used to achieve isolation, either through standard inflatable packers, or cement, and a leak path or micro-annulus forms, it becomes very difficult and costly to resolve.

Although the technology is relatively new, it has been widely accepted and utilized by the industry. To date, it is estimated that approximately 9,000 swelling products have been run for over a 126 different clients in 46 countries.

Globally, there exists a wide variety of well challenges that will benefit from applications of swellable packer technology. These applications include:

• Water or gas shut-off, along screens or perforated liner. Traditionally, achieving isolation of unwanted zones along an interval completed with screens or pre-perforated pipe, or along sections where typical isolation methods are unsuccessful (low pore/frac pressure, slim hole, for example) has been very difficult. This often leads to premature water breakthrough, unacceptably high water or gas cut, and possibly even loss of recoverable reserves.

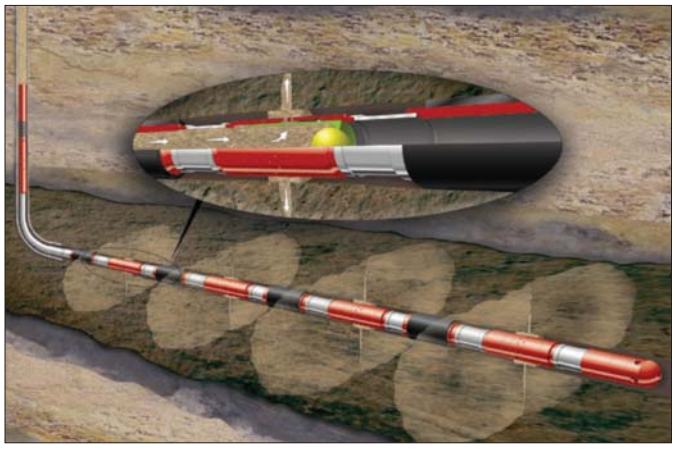
The lack of annular isolation also leads to difficulties involving how to perform a workover on the well, as either shutting off, or stimulating a zone (as there was no annular isolation to control treatment fluid flow). Running swellable packers along the screens, liner or casing, located at zone interfaces, enables unwanted zones to be reliably isolated behind solid pipe. This is particularly beneficial in situations where low formation fracture gradients can cause difficulties in achieving the required isolation with traditional cement jobs, or where long horizontal sections traditionally have proven difficult to isolate. Clients have reported total well construction cost savings of over 30% by utilizing swellable packer technology in this application.

• In combination with traditional cementing operations. Oil and gas wells throughout the world suffer from sustained annulus casing pressure at surface, or from underground cross-flow between zones. This can lead to contamination of zones, loss of production, or excessive water or gas cut. The use of a Cement Assurance™ tool can help avoid these issues.

The Cement Assurance tool uses swellable packer technology to help assure that isolation is achieved at the required depth. This assurance is provided by the use of a thin layer of swellable elastomer mounted on the casing (either bonded, or slipped on and held in place with stop collars).

The Cement Assurance tool is run with the casing. If a mud channel or a micro-annulus forms while the cement is curing, or at some stage through the life of the well, cement isolation failure may occur. Should either of these events occur, the Cement Assurance tool will come in contact with the fluid traveling in leak path past the tool and cause it to swell and seal off the leak

• In combination with Delta Stim® sleeves on multi-stage well fracturing. In this application, technologies are combined to enable an operator to initially achieve reliable isolation using a swellable packer. Then, in quick succession, the operator can execute a multiple-stage frac job by opening the Delta Stim sleeves that have been placed across the various frac zones. This application can reduce the well's total fracturing time, as well as avoid perforating and cementing requirements. Later, the sleeves can be utilized throughout the life of the well to close off unwanted zones, as required.



Halliburton's Delta StimSM completion service showing Halliburton's Swellpacker systems isolating various zones of a horizontal wellbore. All zones are stimulated using an intervention-less frac. In this un-cemented, openhole example, the ball-drop method is used to operate the completion system.

• Excessive plugging from shale or solids movement along the annulus of a screen section. Shale or solids movement along the annulus of a screen section can cause excessive plugging which can result in reduced production, hot spots, and possible loss of sand control. Swellable elastomers mounted on a sleeve that has been placed over the pin end of screens will swell and stop any movement of fines across the packer. This will help retain the well production and avoid costly screen plugging and subsequent potential "hot spots."

In summary, the use of Halliburton's Swell Technology™ systems can offer operators operational cost savings and improved return on their investment by enhancing production performance in a simple, reliable and robust manner. Numerous applications exist for the use of this technology which is available worldwide.

Improving the Performance of Drilling Fluids in the GOS of Egypt; saving two Casing Strings and completing a stable hole

By: Hassanein Youssef
Drilling Fluids Technology Director
PICO Energy - Petroleum Integrated Services

A Case History

A challenging well in the Gulf of Suez of Egypt where the offset wells indicated numerous problems experienced throughout all the wells sections. The Well was drilled where both the 18 5/8" CSG & 7" Liner were saved and the wire-line logging ensured the stability of bore hole against the hydrostatic for more than 3,000psi differential pressure. DFT accepted the challenge and strived to be committed to High Quality Services.

The Situation:

Our customer planned to have a drilling campaign of development and exploratory wells; the design of the first well was based on the following criteria:

1. Complete loss of circulation is expected at the surface hole of Post Zeit formation that compel us setting of 18 5/8" casing in order to seal off that unconsolidated sands.

2. Salt Water flow that compel us running 9 5/8" casing at top of Belayim Clastic formation in order to seal off that flow prior getting through the reservoir section.

3. Unstable shale section within Belayim formation requires full inhibition.

4. Reservoir sections of Belayim & Kareem formations require low mud density to avoid down-hole losses that cause damaging of the reservoir.

The Solution:

DFT has studied all the offset wells, carefully defined all the experienced problems, and came up with the proper mitigations. The mud systems needed some sort of modifications, the losses strategy needs to be set and finally, ideal packing technique must be formulated for the reservoir sections. Combining the reservoir section together with the Evaporites interval to save one casing string is a plus that we should work for it.

The Results:

DFT successfully drilled the entire well achieving the following results:

1. 18 5/8" casing was saved since no complete loss of circulation was experienced due to excellent fluid properties designed by DFT technical engineering staff. The drilling process of 16" hole was advanced from 30" C.P shoe until top of South Gharib formation.

2. 7" Liner was saved since the drilling process of 12 ¼" hole section was advanced from 13 3/8" casing shoe till the total depth of the well. Extensive lab formulations with proper study for offset data enabled DFT to decide to drill with 11.7 ppg mud density prior getting through the high-pressure interval was a correct choice.

3. Tripping performance indicated very stable hole where no drags were encountered while tripping in and/or out.

4. The inhibition degree of the mud system indicated excellent compatibility for the drilled shale sections. No caved or swelled shale were experienced while the drilling process.

5. No down-hole losses were reported at the reservoir section. Losses strategy and bridging material technique that set by DFT was the first defense line against the losses issue.

6. MDT results indicated the protection of reservoir section against the hydrostatic pressure that helped to great extent protecting the reservoir from being damaged. MDT readings indicated differential pressure of more than 3,000psi. Some points indicated more than 4,000psi differential pressure.

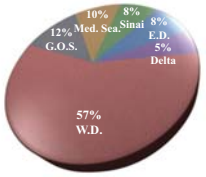
7. Early production testing results showed higher rate than surrounding wells in same field prooving the excellent none damaging characteristics for the formulated system in reservoir section.

Industry Statistics

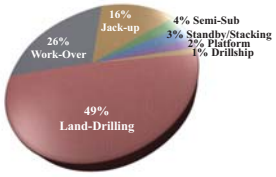
Table 1 Egypt Rig Count per Area -February 2008

Area	RIG COUNT	Total	Percentage of Total Area
Gulf of Suez		14	12%
Offshore	14		
Land	0		
Mediterranean sea		12	10%
Offshore	12		
Land	0		
Western Desert		65	57%
Offshore	0		
Land	65		
Sinai		9	8%
Offshore	0		
Land	9		
Eastern Desert		9	8%
Offshore	0		
Land	9		
Delta		6	5%
Offshore	0		
Land	6		
Total		115	100%

Rigs per Area February 2008



Rigs per Specification



Source: Egypt Oil & Gas

Table 1 World Crude Oil Production (Including Lease Condensate) (Thousand Barrels per Day)

	Egypt	Libya	Sudan	Other	World	OPEC-12[2]	OPEC-11[2]	Persian Gulf[3]	North Sea[4]
2007 March	612	1.680	402	2,700	73,240	31,247	29,607	20,445	4,300
April	609	1.680	447	**2,663**	**73,520**	31,452	29,773	20,494	4,354
May	649	1.680	440	**2,617**	**72,985**	31,304	29,609	20,494	4,084
June	679	1.680	470	2,587	72,710	31,189	29,509	20,403	3,755
July	679	1.700	482	2,588	**73,153**	31,488	29,778	20,508	4,107
August	679	1.700	486	**2,653**	**72,473**	31,456	29,726	20,462	3,718
September	679	1.720	490	**2,675**	**73,311**	32,089	30,298	21,012	3,912
October	609	1.740	500	**2,705**	**73,919**	32,324	30,435	21,158	**4,118**
November	609	1.740	520	2,765	73,717	32,169	30,230	20,873	4,037
2007 11-Month Average	640	1.698	459	2,662	73,223	31,564	29,842	20,608	4,101

[2] OPEC-12: Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries: Algeria, Angola, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya,
Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela. OPEC-11 does not include Angola.
[3] The Persian Gulf countries are Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. Production
from the
Kuwait-Saudi Arabia Neutral Zone is included in Persian Gulf production.
[4] North Sea includes the United Kingdom Offshore, Norway, Denmark, Netherlands Offshore, and Germany Offshore.
Revised data are in ***bold italic font***.

Source: EIA

Table 2 World Oil Supply[1] (Thousand Barrels per Day)

		United States[2]	Persian Gulf[3]	OAPEC[4]	OAPE-12[4]	OAPE-11[4]	World
2007 March	E	8,460	22,907	24,059	34,513	32,849	84,083
April	E	8,506	22,953	24,115	34,719	33,016	84,570
May	E	8,566	22,953	24,142	34,570	32,853	**84,252**
June	E	8,520	22,870	24,095	34,463	32,761	**84,380**
July	E	8,526	22,926	24,169	34,713	32,981	**84,813**
August	E	8,360	22,880	24,118	34,682	32,929	**83,840**
September	E	8,324	23,430	24,694	35,318	33,504	**84,654**
October	E	8,474	23,580	24,748	35,560	33,645	**85,451**
November	PE	8,539	23,237	24,416	35,351	33,384	85,360
2007 11-Month Average	PE	8,463	23,045	24,228	34,809	33,063	84,531

[1] «Oil Supply» is defined as the production of crude oil (including lease condensate), natural gas plant liquids, and other liquids, and refinery processing gain (loss).
[2] U.S. geographic coverage is the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Beginning in 1993, includes fuel ethanol blended into
finished motor gasoline and oxygenate production from merchant MTBE plants.
[3] The Persian Gulf countries are Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. Production from the Kuwait-Saudi Arabia Neutral Zone is included in Persian Gulf production.
[4] OAPEC: Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries: Algeria, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. 5 OPEC-12: Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries: Algeria, Angola, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar,
Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela. OPEC-11 does not include Angola.
E=Estimated data. RE=Revised estimated data. PE=Preliminary estimated data.
Revised data are in ***bold italic font.***

Source: EIA

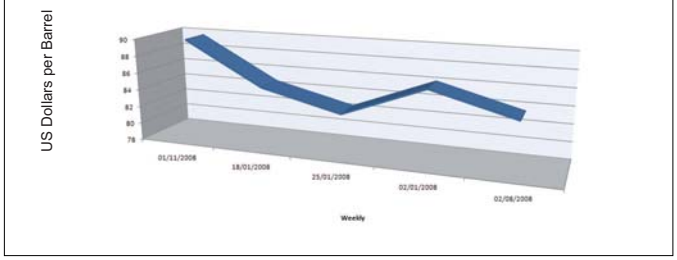
Table 4 OECD1 Countries and World Petroleum (Oil) Demand (Thousand Barrels per Day)

	France	German	Italy	United Kingdom	OECD Europe[2]	Canada	Japan	South Korea	United States[3]	Other OECD[4]	OECD[1]	World
2007 March	1,923	2,483	1,712	1,786	15,319	2,307	5,404	2,282	20,529	3,530	49,371	NA
April	1,854	2,343	1,631	1,776	14,771	2,198	4,876	2,215	20,579	3,302	47,940	NA
May	1,788	2,393	1,704	1,801	14,940	2,315	4,405	2,071	20,631	3,497	47,859	NA
June	1,900	2,456	1,670	1,766	15,172	2,323	4,568	2,063	20,737	3,579	48,441	NA
July	1,941	2,500	1,687	1,775	15,386	2,416	4,564	2,047	20,641	3,522	48,577	NA
August	1,908	2,581	1,552	1,709	**15,284**	**2,404**	4,597	2,091	21,051	3,388	**48,814**	NA
September	1,929	**2,603**	1,651	1,763	**15,599**	**2,368**	4,860	2,027	20,385	3,291	**48,529**	NA
October	2,128	2,702	1,748	1,742	16,051	2,374	4,793	2,208	20,455	3,565	49,447	NA
2007 10-Month Average	1,936	2,477	1,672	1,773	15,286	2,342	4,879	2,177	20,679	3,447	48,810	NA

[1] OECD: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.
[2] OECD Europe consists of Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.
[3] U.S. geographic coverage is the 50 States and the District of Columbia.
[4] Other OECD consists of Australia, Mexico, New Zealand, and the U.S. Territories.
NA=Not available.
Revised data are in ***bold italic font.***
Notes: The term Demand is used interchangeably with Consumption and Products Supplied.

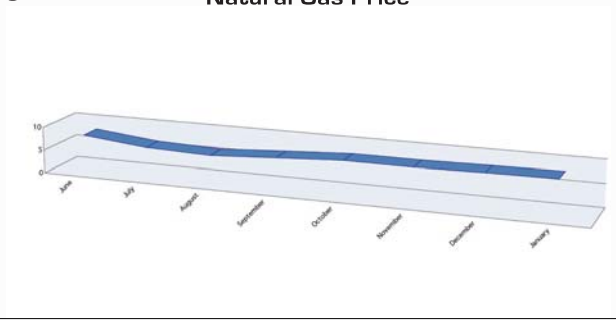
Source: EIA

Fig 1 Egypt Suez Blend Price



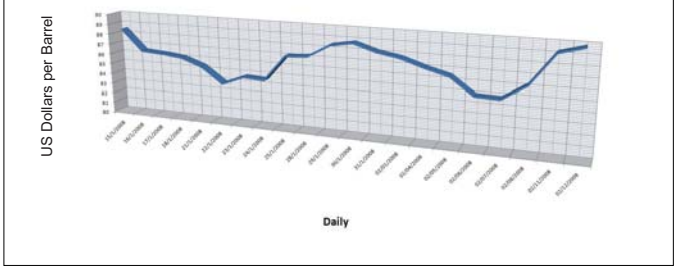
Source: Egypt Oil & Gas

Fig 2 Natural Gas Price



Source: Egypt Oil & Gas

Fig 3 OPEC Basket Price



Source: Egypt Oil & Gas

Fig 4 IPE Brent Price

Source: Egypt Oil & Gas

Table 5 World Natural Gas Liquids Production (Thousand Barrels per Day)

	Algeria	Canada	Mexico	Soudi Arabia	Russia	Former U.S.S.R.		United States[1]	Persian Gulf[2]	OAPE[3]	OAPE-12[4]	OAPE-11[4]	World
2007 March	340	680	416	1,427	426	_	E	1,767	2,352	2,807	3,127	3,103	7,923
April	340	661	420	1,427	427	_	E	1,749	2,349	2,805	3,128	3,104	**7,950**
May	340	670	412	1,427	429	_	E	1,787	2,350	2,805	3,128	3,105	**7,921**
June	340	621	418	1,427	424	_	E	1,775	2,358	2,813	3,136	3,113	**7,877**
July	340	624	401	1,427	425	_	E	1,778	2,308	2,764	3,087	3,064	**7,847**
August	340	619	378	1,427	428	_	E	1,755	2,309	2,764	3,087	3,064	7,733
September	340	636	372	1,427	428	_	E	1,795	2,309	2,764	3,091	3,068	7,744
October	345	**679**	371	1,427	428	_	E	1,837	2,313	2,767	3,097	3,071	**7,953**
November	347	688	364	1,427	424	_	PE	1,868	2,255	2,712	3,044	3,016	8,042
2007 11-Month Average	341	668	397	1,427	426	_	PE	1,772	2,327	2,783	3,107	3,083	7,903

[1] U.S. geographic coverage is the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Excludes fuel ethanol blended into finished motor gasoline.
[2] The Persian Gulf countries are Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.
[3] OAPEC: Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries: Algeria, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.
[4] OPEC-12: Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries: Algeria, Angola, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela. OPEC-11 does not include Angola.
- - = Not applicable. E=Estimated data. PE=Preliminary estimated data.
Revised data are in ***bold italic font.***

Source: EIA

Average Currency Exchange Rate against the Egyptian Pound
(January / February 2008)

US Dollar	Euro	Sterling	Yen (100)
5.515	8.094	10.876	5.519

Stock Market Prices
(January / February 2008)

Company	High	Low
Alexandria Mineral Oils [AMOC.CA]	81.71	74.56
Sidi Kerir Petrochamicals [SKPC.CA]	24.78	20.39

Table 6 International Stock Prices
Mid-January 2008 - Mid-February 2008

International Stock	High	Low
Schlumberger [SLB] NYSE [US Dollars]	85.90	74.86
Halliburton [HAL] NYSE [US Dollars]	35.84	31.66
Exxon Mobil [XOM] NYSE [US Dollars]	86.53	81.09
Atwood Oceanics [ATW] NYSE [US Dollars]	90.92	80.80
Weatherford [WFT] NYSE [US Dollars]	66.35	56.26
Shell [RDS.A] NYSE [US Dollars]	77.51	67.53
Apache [APA] NYSE [US Dollars]	108.22	91.33
Baker Hughes [BHI] NYSE [US Dollars]	74.46	63.90
BJ [BJS] NYSE [US Dollars]	24.78	20.56
Lufkin [LUFK] NYSE [US Dollars]	56.57	51.47
Transocean [RIG] NYSE [US Dollars]	131.29	121.14
Transglobe [TGA] NYSE [US Dollars]	5.31	4.50
BP [BP.] LSE Pence Sterling	564.00	503.50
BP [BP.] LSE Pence Sterling	1187.00	950.00
Dana Gas [Dana] ADSM US Dollars	2.55	2.10
Caltex [CTX] ASX Australian Dollars	17.89	15.60
RWE DWA [RWE AG ST] Deutsche-Borse Euros	94.72	77.46
Lukoil [LKOH] RTS [US Dollars]	80.51	64.40

Source: Egypt Oil & Gas

TOPTECH Egypt wins Apache's tender for Storage Infrastructure Consolidation Project

Apache Egypt Companies, a key player in the Oil and Gas sector is eager to maintain its international standards through adapting topnotch IT solutions. TOPTECH Egypt – IBM Business Partner - with its broad proficiency in implementi ng storage solutions in Egypt was the winning partner dedicated to work with Apache in order to achieve the project objectives.

TOPTECH Egypt successfully managed the assessment and design phases with the contribution of **Mr. Jadir Barazi** – Apache's IT Manager – to reach the optimum solution overview that maximizes the return on investment and minimizes the total cost of ownership (TCO), depending on IBM storage technology.

IBM the original Storage inventor has the widest product range, leading the storage industry since 60 years with more than 40 Years experience in Virtualization Technologies, more than 12,000 Virtualization Storage Systems installed worldwide as well as Virtualization references in Egypt.

Working with Apache and employing a successful technical assessment performed by TOPTECH and IBM presales engineers, the storage solution has been developed for an IBM System Storage DS4800 that best fits Apache's environment.

The DS400 is an integral component in IBM's storage solution portfolio and a key component of the business continuity solutions portfolio that delivers business resilience and continuity of operations. Also, it takes advantage of 4 Gbps Fibre Channel interface technology and supports up to 224 disk drives in Total Storage EXP810 disk units.

A real value has been added to the solution topology "IBM TotalStorage SAN16B-2 fabric switch" to enhance storage networking with higher throughput, and increased port density and to provide a foundation for new infrastructure simplification and business continuity solutions for running applications.

The solution has been designed to provide full redundancy where no down time and no single point of failure.

One of TOPTECH Egypt's competitive advantages is its value added services done by its qualified teamwork and business partners who provide business solutions for various industry sectors.

Currently, TOPTECH Egypt is running the pre-installation phase which includes the technical prerequisites to justify the system environmental accomodation

Events & Awards

Petronas scholarships granted for the 4th time to Egyptian students

ENG. Sameh Fahmy, the Egyptian Minister of Petroleum granted educational scholarships of Petronas University for Technology in Malaysia to the top 15 Egyptian students in Thanaweya Amma (Secondary School) to study for their bachelor's degree in various engineering specialties and computer science.

This is the fourth batch of Egyptian students to win such scholarship; the first batch was in 2004, the second in 2005 and the third in 2006. The Petronas scholarships reflect the cooperation ties between the Egyptian petroleum sector and the international companies operating in Egypt. This is considered as means to provide qualified human cadres needed in the petroleum industry and to be fully acquainted with the petroleum industry's continuous technological progress worldwide.

MIDOR puts on the European Arch

MIDDLE East Oil Refinery "MIDOR" was awarded "The International Arch of Europe" for quality and technology in the Platinum category from the international organization "Business Initiative Directions" based in Madrid, Spain.

The ceremony was held in Frankfurt, Germany. MIDOR was granted the special recognition award for the immeasurable contribution to the business world and for high standing and professionalism demonstrated by prestigious performance.

Middle East Pipeline Infrastructure & Safety Forum

2-3 March
Bahrain
Organized by: Marcus Evans
Tel: +603 2723 6604
Fax: +603 2723 6699
URL: www.marcusevans.com
This Forum will provide useful information and also analyze the unique issues faced by executive delegates on their daily challenges for pipeline safety, integrity and infrastructure maintenance. The panel of specialists and practitioners from the oil and gas industries will offer key practiced solutions for the Oil & Gas companies in Middle East region.

Gastech 2008

10 -13 March
Bangkok, Thailand
Bangkok International Trade & Exhibition Centre
Organized by: DMG World Media
Tel: +44 (0) 1737 855106
Fax: +44 (0) 1737 855482
URL: www.gastech.co.uk
This year, the conference agenda includes several topics covering different aspects, such as world gas supply and demand, price and country strategy, safety and training, alternative trading models in the gas business, natural gas and LNG facilities including storage, regasification, floating and offshore…etc.

1st SPE North Africa Technical Conference and Exhibition

12-14 March
Marrakesh, Morocco
Organized by: The Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE)
Tel: +9714.360.2952
Fax: +9714.366.4648
Email: fleon@spe.org
Since 1929, and after the discovery of the Ain Hamra oil pool, oil exploration in Morocco has been considered by major industry players. According to previous estimates Morocco is said to have oil reserves of 1.07 million barrels and natural gas reserves of 60 billion cubic feet (Bcf), which makes the country a focus area in the North African region.