

Never-Ending Story



Surviving in a competitive industry is all about keeping the edge. Seeking new opportunities and creating them. That inspires me! Everything can be improved. It's a never-ending story. At Yellow & Finch Publishers our aim is perfection. It's a daily routine to keep improving our magazines and web portals to be of best service to the industry.

A company who also keeps searching for opportunities is ALE. A result of its continued search for opportunities resulted in the Mega Jack Tower system. This system developed out of the increasing demand in the offshore industry to lift larger and heavier oil and gas platforms as well as other large structures. With this novel jack-up system they cannot only elevate structures of staggering weights and sizes, but can raise them higher and with greater stability and control than previously thought possible.

Talking about new opportunities brings to mind one of the leading oil and gas exhibitions in the world, SPE Offshore Europe. This bi-annual event saw a record-breaking attendance in 2009 with more than 30,500 participants from more than 94 countries. The 2011 event provides three full days in September to establish new business relations and to explore new business possibilities. Decom North Sea, mentioned in this issue, is one of the organisations enjoying the fruit of the unique opportunities brought by SPE Offshore Europe. Decom North Sea encourages the decommissioning supply chain in the North Sea. It anticipates and analyses future decommissioning activities and also promotes the expertise and technology of their members, the entire decommissioning industry supply chain.

Bearing this in mind, it is a pleasure to present the new issue of Offshore Industry full of insider industry information dealing with the latest technical developments. We hope this issue will help you to find your own opportunities to improve your products and services. Whether you're a key supplier, contractor or oil company, to keep abreast of industrial developments you have got to keep the competitive edge – a never-ending story.

Vincent Vinkoert

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Front Cover: The TAZ system is the first circulation sub to offer an unlimited number of activations and can be used for applications, such as restoring circulation, hole enlargement, coring, well cleanout, wellhead cleanout, horizontal and directional drilling and surge protection. The system remains dormant in the bottom hole assembly and is activated by dropping a ball down the drill pipe. More on page 32.

Background picture contents page: The family-owned Bonn & Mees company will be celebrating its 125 year anniversary next year. Since 1916, the organisation has been specifically focusing on activities with floating sheerlegs. The company currently owns three sheerlegs – two of 400 t and one of 1,500 t – as well as two towing vessels. The enterprise is also starting to focus more and more on offshore activities. More on page 26.