



Wednesday, 23 January 2008

SALA BARBARA

5° Palazzo Uffici - Eni E&P division

Via Emilia 1

SAN DONATO MILANESE

11:00

RISERLESS & DUAL GRADIENT DRILLING IN ULTRA DEEPWATER

By Paul Potter

➤ ABSTRACT

Dwindling oil and gas recoverable reserves throughout the world are becoming a pre-occupying concern for modern humankind.

Informative analysis predicts that there will be dire global energy shortfalls within the next few decades unless alternative energy sources are found and/or more effective exploitation of recovering hydrocarbon reserves are realized.

This lecture explores a new drilling technique which will enable more hydrocarbon reservoirs to be drilled and produced. The location of these reservoirs is in ultra deepwater at the interface between the continental shelves and the deep oceans, known as the ocean margin. The water depth range of interest is between 8000 feet and 12000 feet.

The lecture identifies some of the present problems and challenges faced by the offshore drilling industry in their quest to drill exploratory wells in these water depths.

This lecture addresses solutions to the problems, which until now have prevented the industrial realization of a true riserless drilling system.

➤ BIOGRAPHY

Paul Potter worked for Saipem SPa for the 6 years and was involved in the build and commissioning of the Saipem 10000. Prior to this, he was similarly involved in the build and commissioning of the world's first dual-activity drillship: the Transocean Discoverer Enterprise. He has actively been involved in Subsea Engineering for the past 28 years.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the UK Open University and a Masters Degree in Underwater Technology and Subsea Engineering and a Ph.D from Cranfield University, UK. He is a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers and The Society of Underwater Technology. His PhD research centred on Riserless Dual Gradient Drilling and was sponsored by Saipem/GPS. Further, he submitted a Patent Application to achieve this technique which is currently 'held' in GPS, Zurich.

Following his time with Saipem he worked for ModuSpec Engineering (International) BV, predominately developing industrial course material with some teaching.

Currently, he is a consulting Project Engineer for RigTech Independent Ltd. in Aberdeen.