

- NEWS RELEASE -

ITF issues two calls for proposals at Europe's largest energy show

Technologies for in-well communications and advances in LWIV well abandonment required

ITF, the oil industry technology facilitator issued two fresh calls for proposals today, Wednesday, September 9 at the Offshore Europe (OE 09) exhibition in Aberdeen.

The output from two theme days earlier this year, ITF is looking for global technology developers to come forward with solutions to challenges facing in-well communications and the use of Light Well Intervention Vessels (LWIVs) for subsea well abandonment.

In-well communications

Calling for proposals to address challenges facing in-well communications, ITF is specifically looking for technological solutions to eliminate the need for production logs and retrofit of technology in wells that have been installed without gauges.

David Liddle, operations director of ITF explained:

“Operators across the globe require a full range of cost effective and reliable services that focus on well performance and operations. Oil and gas companies operate high value oil and gas wells that need services and products to measure, improve, control and process flow from these



David Liddle, Operations Director

wells. A wide range of innovative technologies and services are needed to assist in the process of data acquisition and this call is an open invitation to global technology developers to come forward with their ideas.”

The following challenges have been identified as specific technology requirements by ITF members for the in- well communications theme:

- Instrumentation

As future developments are likely to be HPHT, new tools are required that must be resistant to these environments.

- Communication between Wells

Improving reservoir connectivity through advances in downhole seismic, well and reservoir management and continuous resistivity measurements well to well.

- Wireless Technologies

The key to widespread application of wireless technology is power and bandwidth on demand and improvements in signal pickup for offshore platforms, downhole power and data compression.

- Smart Technology

Smart techniques to improve flow measurement and control flow, methods to control downhole robots, fibre optics for communication and monitoring and self controlled well technologies.

Any organisation seeking sponsorship for innovative technologies is encouraged to submit proposals for research, development, and / or field trial to ITF.

LWIV for well abandonment

Issuing a second call for proposals, ITF is encouraging any organisation or individual to come forward with proposals for improving the operating limitations associated with LWIV well abandonment.

David Liddle continued:

“The main driver for using a LWIV is that cost savings of up to 50% could potentially be achieved compared to a conventional rig or MODU (mobile offshore drilling unit).

“The use of a LWIV for well abandonment does however, impose a number of operating limitations when compared to a conventional rig, and these limitations severely restrict the ability to run and rotate strings of jointed pipe as normally carried out in a rig based abandonment operation.”

ITF is looking for technology proposals that can help provide solutions to the following:

- Solving the cable issue
 - The ability to remove the gauge cable secured to the outside of completion tubing in order to meet Oil and Gas UK guidelines.
- Logging through tubing
 - The ability to identify / confirm what fluids or other materials (cement) are in each annulus, the condition of the tubing and casing strings, and where the top of good cement is in each annulus.
- New materials challenge
 - Development and qualification of a reduced cost alternative material (to cement) with suitable properties for the plugging and abandonment of oil and gas wells.
- Tagging and verification of cement plugs with wireline
 - Ability to verify the location of the permanent barrier where coiled tubing or jointed pipe is not available
- Cementing multiple annuli
 - Ability to place cement in the B & C annuli with the completion tubing still in place.

- Wellhead removal
 - Ability to remove the wellhead with the completion tubing still in place i.e. cut through production tubing as well as the 9 5/8", 13 3/8", 20" & 30"/36" casing strings a minimum of 10ft below the seabed.

ITF is inviting proposals from any organisation including SME's, academia, research institutions, large organisations, consortiums or alliances. Proposals may be submitted by a national or international organization, and equal opportunities will be extended to all those submitting proposals.

The closing date for applications for both calls for proposals is October 19, and October 30, 2009 respectively, although developers can register interest in the call through the ITF website by visiting www.oil-itf.com

Ends